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MARRIAGES.

On the 8th October, at Hongkong, ALEXANDER COLBOURNE LITTLE, F.R.I.B.A. of the Public Works Department, to CHRISTINE DAVIDSON WILSON, only daughter of RICHARD GIBB, J.P., and Mrs. GIBB of Bishopbriggs, N.B.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

Mrs. L. A. M. JOHNSTON wishes to thank all those who have so sincerely sympathised with her in her great sorrow.

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ARRIVAL OF MAIL.

The French Mail of the 11th Sept. arrived per s.s. *Ploynisien* on the 17th inst.

The English Mail of the 18th Sept. and the parcel mails closed in London for despatch by the all sea route on the 9th Sept. and for despatch overland on the 16th Sept. arrived per s.s. *Assaye* on 15th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The latest reports of the plague outbreak at Tongshan show the epidemic to be steadily increasing. Over 1,000 cases had been reported since it first appeared and of these over 800 were fatal.

As a result of the second drawing of lots by proprietors of the opium-smoking divans within the International Settlement at Shanghai 350 establishments are to close their business by December 31st next.

A party of forty American merchants and their wives, invited to Japan by the Chambers Commerce, arrived at Yokohama on the 12th inst. A second party is coming in the Spring.

A new plan of campaign for the eradication of cholera was instituted at Manila on the 10th inst. A house to house inspection of every house within the municipal jurisdiction of the city of Manila was to be conducted by the police, American and Filipino.

Among the passengers arrived by the P. and O. steamer "Assaye" we noticed the names of Dr. Manuel Teixeira de Sampaio Mansilha, the new Colonial Secretary for Macao, and the Very Rev. Fr. M. Pitta, the Superior of the Portuguese Mission at Hoihow, Hainan. Both these gentlemen leave for Macao to-day.

In the course of the hearing of a case before Mr. Justice Law, in the Supreme Court, Singapore, relating to the ownership of a tongkang, it was given forth by a Chinese witness that "a Chinaman can have three or four names, and if you have known him all your life you may call him by either one or the other of them. There is the name he is known by at school, the name his parents give him, the name he is generally known by; and so forth."

M. Frédéric Voinot, Secrétaire du Commissariat at Courbevoie, has been appointed Chief of Police for the French Concession at Tientsin, on the recommendation of M. Lépine-Prefect of Police. M. Voinot will be entrusted with the task of organising the detective identification, and Public Health services; and his appointment, says a Paris correspondent, will be welcome by French merchants in the concession who have too frequently to complain of the hostile attitude of Chinese bandits.

Mr. W. J. Gallagher, the representative of Mr. G. G. Kiss, horse exporter of Sydney, who is at present in Hongkong, on Saturday received a wire from Japan informing him that the Government had prohibited the Pari Mutuel on race courses. For the past eight years Mr. Gallagher has been taking Australian horses to Japan for the various racing clubs, but the wire he received from his agent on Saturday ordered him to cancel all further orders on account of the action of the Japanese Government.

The members of the German Club in Bangkok have opened a fund for receiving subscriptions to the Count von Zeppelin airship fund. When the fund was opened some 700 Ticals was subscribed, and Prof. Boerger gave an interesting address on Count Zeppelin's work. Dr. H. Budenbender, Prof. Boerger, Mr. H. Willems and Mr. W. Engelhardt have been appointed a Committee to look after the fund, and Mr. W. Engelhardt is superintending the collection of subscriptions. The fund had not closed when the last mail left.

Fears are entertained for the safety of Captain Tom Groves, a popular Hongkong skipper who on the 30th of last month left for Manila in Messrs. Lysaught and Co's steam launch "Jalo," a craft of 30 tons burthen. Captain Groves should have reached Manila on Monday when word would have been forwarded of his arrival, but so far that information has not been received. The inference is that either the "Jalo" has foundered in the recent storm, or Captain Groves has succeeded in reaching shelter and thereby been delayed.

An experimental cultivation of European pear-trees, which proved a failure in Japan, owing to the unfavourable climate, has been rewarded with very satisfactory results in Korea.

A Paper laid before the Colonial Council at Saigon gives interesting particulars of the progress of rubber cultivation in Cochinchina during the official year 1907-8. Companies commanding large capital have set to work in the provinces of Bienhoa and Thaudamot to grow the Hevea variety. Within the last few months, they have planted out about 200,000 Heveas. The Suzannah estate also accounts for 100,000 plants. A company known as the Xatrach Syndicate, the latest established, is making head fast. The Manager hopes to plant out 100,000 Heveas before the end of the year.

A scientific labour of the utmost importance and interest is about to be commenced from Shanghai, says a Northern contemporary. This is a magnetic survey of China, and Dr. Edwards of the Carnegie Institute, Washington, who is to carry it through, is at present in Shanghai preparing for the work, which will be by no means light. The Carnegie Institute has inaugurated a number of scientific expeditions dealing with various subjects, which are in progress in America and throughout the world generally, and the one affecting China is one of the latest, though not the least important, of these.

The death occurred at the Shanghai General Hospital on the 16th inst. of Capt. Arie Renaud, late master of the bucket-dredger "Rhenania" now engaged in the river conservancy work at Wookung. Captain Renaud entered the Hospital on the 3rd, and was under the treatment of Dr. Krieg, who on the afternoon of the 6th held a post mortem examination of the body, at which a representative of the Netherlands Consulate-General was present. The internal organ was subsequently sent to Dr. Stanley for analysis. Captain Renaud was a witness in the investigations that are being made into the alleged irregularities in connexion with the Huangpu dredging works, and one of the first to volunteer evidence. On Monday a libel action against Captain Renaud, in connexion with statements made by him against one of the officers of the Conservancy Board, was to have come before the Netherlands Consular Court, but it was postponed in consequence of the illness of the defendant.

Shanghai papers record the death of Mr. John A. Ross, accountant of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China. Less than a fortnight previously Mr. Ross developed liver trouble and an operation was performed with such success that his early recovery seemed assured; but the appearance of further complications rendered another operation necessary and from this he never rallied. Mr. Ross had an experience of about twelve years abroad in the service of the Chartered Bank at various points, the *N.C. Daily News* says, and was held in high esteem, not only for his business abilities, but for his kindly disposition, which had earned for him the affection and respect of his colleagues and the entire staff, by whom his untimely decease is deeply deplored. His death at the early age of 34 will cause wide-spread regret amongst his numerous friends and in Masonic circles, where he occupied a prominent place, and the deepest sympathy is felt for his widow, and for relatives at home.

CHRISTIAN CONVERTS AND CHINESE MAGISTRATES.

(Daily Press, 12th October.)

Our Canton correspondence recently has contained several references to action taken by the Chinese authorities bearing upon the status of missionaries and the attitude of the Chinese magistrates when dealing with cases in which Christian converts are concerned. It was in April last that the Imperial rescript was published withdrawing the privilege of official status which the Catholic missionaries in China had enjoyed since 1899; but while the missionaries have doubtless recognised this rescission they have not apparently acquiesced in what we may term the degradation it involves. We presume, at least, that this is the *raison d'être* of the order recently received at Canton from the Wai-Wu-Pu intimating that when missionaries may have business at the Viceregal Yamen they must not be treated with the pomp and circumstance of exalted rank and that they must not enter by the front gates, as the officials do, but seek admittance by the back door. We may suppose that the main object in view in granting to missionaries official status was to secure for them respectful treatment from the people among whom they carried on their work, and the Tsung-li-Yamen, when they memorialised the Throne to grant these dignities, anticipated, no doubt, that it would make for the personal security of the missionaries as well as the maintenance of public order. It will be within the recollection of most of our readers that the Tsung-li-Yamen desired that Protestant as well as Catholic missionaries should be given official rank, but at a conference of all the Protestant Bishops of China, English and American, the offer was unanimously rejected, and the Catholic missionaries only therefore have had this privilege, and consequently they alone were affected by the order withdrawing it. Of the reasons which influenced the Chinese Government to rescind the Rescript of 1899 we have no knowledge, but presume the Government came to share the widespread belief that the privilege had not served to promote peace and concord, but had tended rather to accentuate and increase the difficulties of the missionary problem. Undoubtedly, in giving to missionaries the status of officials there was the danger of creating a vague sort of impression among converts that they were in a measure removed from the jurisdiction of their own laws and the tyranny of certain Chinese customs which have the force and effect of law. And while it must be said to the credit of the great majority of missionaries, both Protestant and Catholic, that they have scrupulously abstained from interfering with the duties of the constituted legal authorities, cases have been far too common in which individual missionaries have unwisely departed from this wholesome rule. Five years ago the British Minister at Peking felt it necessary to issue a warning on the subject in which it was forcibly pointed out that missionaries are not accredited agents of the British Government for the enforcement of Treaty obligations and that Article VIII of the Treaty was not intended to confer upon missionaries any right of intervention on behalf of native Christians. "I am persuaded," Sir ERNEST SATOW wrote, "that if missionaries uniformly refrain from direct intervention on behalf of native Christians and confine their action to representing to H. M. Consuls cases of actual persecution, such a course will redound to the preservation of peace between converts and non-converts, and to the

spread of a genuine Christianity among the people of China." In his recently published book Mr. H. B. MORSE introduces some very interesting remarks on this question with the observation that "when the missionary far in the interior, many miles from the observing eyes of the Consul, transfers a corner of his protecting cloak to his poor (persecuted) convert he may be doing what is right, but it is not lawful; and this is the naked fact underlying many an episode leading to a riot." The communication from the Peking Government which we print to-day, among our Canton news, is an admission which is very welcome, even though it is belated, that the primary cause of the riots in which missionaries have been killed and their property destroyed has, in fact, been due to the dilatoriness or incompetence of the Chinese courts of law. It is a gratifying sign that the Government is alive to the need of such judicial reform as will secure the prompt and impartial administration of justice, especially in cases savouring of religious persecution. But the exhortations of the Government, we fear, will be of little avail until a properly trained judiciary is provided. That it should be necessary for the Government to remind the Judges of their obvious duty merely serves to confirm the distrust in their impartiality which is admirably expressed by Mr. H. B. MORSE in the following extract:—"There is a manifest tendency, clearly recognised by all, even the most impartial, but quite incapable of legal demonstration, for the judges of the land, in cases where the right is not obviously on one side or the other, to decide *ex motu suo* against the convert; ostensibly such decisions are given on as good legal grounds as any case in China is ever decided, but practically the underlying reason is the convert's religion—not the Judge's antipathy to the religion itself, but the ingrained feeling that the convert has become less Chinese than the non convert, that he has received that foreign taint which, in 1900, sent the missionary and convert alike to one common sacrifice on the altar of nationalism."

THE CRISIS IN EUROPE.

(Daily Press, 13th October.)

Present events in the Balkan Peninsula suggest changes in the map of Europe. Whether these can be accomplished without resort to "the dread arbitrament of war" is the question which is being discussed with somewhat bated breath, and not unduly naturally cables from home are received with more than ordinary interest these days. The issues are indeed momentous. The peace of the world may be disturbed and the unwelcome spectacle of Europe divided into an armed camp is a possibility which presents itself to many minds—and all apparently traceable to the simple act of a comparatively insignificant principality wishing to improve its status and assume the greater dignity of a kingdom. When the Bulgarian declaration of independence was followed by the announcement of the Austrian determination to annex Bosnia and Herzegovina the conclusion was irresistible that the two actions were not unrelated. Bulgaria would have been bold indeed to have stepped into the rank of nations without a sponsor, but with the support, secretly understood or privately expressed, of a powerful neighbour, the defiance of Europe did not seem quite so impertinent. Bulgaria's violation of the Treaty of Berlin seemed less heinous when Austria became a party to a similar course of action. Ethics do not necessarily enter into

international politics, but expediency does, and though we do not wish to cast stones at either of the two governments mentioned, we doubt whether the Concert of Europe in considering the question of the expediency of the course adopted by Austria and Bulgaria will approve their actions.

As we remarked a few days ago, the aspirations of the Bulgarian people to enjoy a separate national existence may be regarded as quite legitimate and proper. Moreover Austria's desire to annex the two provinces placed under her protection is easily understood. Other nations have acted in a like manner and no Concert of Europe interfered or attempted to say them nay. Expediency justified the step taken then. Does it justify them now? That is the question which the Powers have to discuss. Admittedly Austria can substantiate her claim to Bosnia and Herzegovina with good reasons. The Signatories to the Berlin Treaty regarded her as the natural protector of these two provinces, and they assigned them to her care. And she has discharged her trust well. She has given thirty years of good work, and not unnaturally she does not wish to lose the fruits of her toil, more especially as the territory lies within her geographical influence. Annexation was the only possible course open to her. Whether she should have sought the consent of the European Powers first, or annexed the territory first and asked permission later, is a point which comes within the realm of expediency.

It is perhaps only human nature that others should wish to take advantage of this violation of the Treaty of Berlin. Montenegro has declared its intention to free itself from Austrian authority now that the Treaty is regarded as no longer binding, and, as if there were not complications enough, the Cretans announce their desire to come under the Government of the King of the Hellenes, much to the embarrassment of Greece who wishes to preserve amicable relations with her neighbour Turkey. All this is regrettable, happening as it does at the time when Turkey was giving promise of better things. It suggests that the era of reform in the Ottoman Empire, instead of being welcomed by those around her, has filled them with alarm at the prospect of being deprived of the excuse which Turkish misrule gave them of participating in the dismemberment of the Empire. What other explanation can be advanced? For years Turkey in Europe has only existed, not on the sufferance of the other Powers, but because of their jealousies. They could not agree as to the division of the spoil, and so the "Sick Man of Europe" was allowed to remain in Constantinople to the disgust of not a few. Then Turkey had a revolution, a peaceful revolution too. It surprised all Europe, and, happily for the reformers, the Powers agreed to give them a chance to prove themselves. Yet the work of reform has barely been outlined, when Turkey is assailed on all sides. It is hardly playing the game. When Europe had decided to look on with friendly eye and see her put her house in order, it is unfortunate, to say the least, that attempts should now be made to disintegrate the Empire. The Powers have a duty to Turkey. Great Britain, France and Russia have already declared that they are fully conscious of their obligations. Italy is apparently anxious to prevent any outbreak, as it is stated she prompted the despatch of a British Squadron to the Aegean Sea. Germany has not declared herself, and it will not occasion surprise to learn she is in sympathy with Austria. Other interests may

arise to influence the actions of the respective Powers, but there can be no doubt that all the aids of diplomacy will be required to bring unanimity to the deliberations of the conference.

The chief menace to the peace of Europe is the attitude of Serbia. That country does not appreciate the prospect of the Servians of Bosnia and Herzegovina being absorbed by Austria and apparently regards the annexation as a prelude to its own ultimate incorporation under the dual monarchy. Troops are being massed on both sides of the frontier. Therein lies the danger. With excitement running high, men armed and ready for battle, it is easy to ignite the spark which will set Europe ablaze. Should Austria send her troops into Serbia or Montenegro, other interested Powers will doubtless feel impelled to interfere, with dire results to the peace of Europe. Fortunately the Servian Parliament, in spite of the clamours of the populace, has decided against war. Equally fortunate is it that Turkey remains calm. A British Fleet is endeavouring to prevent awkward demonstrations in the Greek Archipelago and should the present restraint exercised by the principal parties not be broken by precipitate action there are grounds for believing that the situation, complicated though it be, is not beyond the resources of peaceful persuasion.

CODLIN'S THE FRIEND, & C.

(Daily Press, October 14th.)

Though the word "Alliance" does not appear to have been whispered at the interview with Mr. TAFT reported in the long message we were enabled by the courtesy of the *New York Herald* to publish yesterday, Mr. TAFT showed himself no less convinced than the *New York Herald* that "CODLIN is the friend of China, not SHORT." Mr. TAFT, the message says, emphatically expressed himself in favour of closer relations between China and the United States. He is in favour of "close friendship" between China and the United States, "because China's progress is America's progress"—not a very altruistic motive after all. It shows that Mr. TAFT, like all keen Americans, has an eye on the main chance. What frankness required Mr. TAFT to say was needed to hasten China's prosperity and bring about a development to the advantage of China and America was that China should send more young men to study the conditions obtaining there and to work for the improvement of their country. It is fairly obvious how helpful this might be to China, but there may be some who will ask in what way is "America's progress" assisted by the arrangement? Mr. TAFT apparently thinks the answer so self-evident as to make a statement in words superfluous. He can, at least, count on every American knowing that a given number of Chinese students coming into the United States is likely to influence more business in the long run than twice the number of American hustlers sent to China. In no country in the world is the Chinese student exploited in the interests of business possibilities as he is in the United States. The average American knows more about driving a hard business bargain than about pure philanthropy, and Mr. TAFT's wish to see more Chinese students in the American colleges as we have already suggested, is not necessarily the purest altruism. It will occur to anyone reading Mr. TAFT's speech that, like the lady in *Hamlet*, he doth protest too much. Everyone knows America has industriously sought to cultivate China's

friendship in ways which have not appealed to other Powers, and the American press, at least, has expected commercial advantages to accrue therefrom. But there is nothing practical about any of Mr. TAFT's suggestions excepting this appeal for more students of the stamp of those who go to Yale. It probably gratifies the readers of the *New York Herald* to be told that China's progress would be accelerated if "American ideas and influence are mingled with the work," and others will enjoy the egoism of it. China, in truth, would make no progress of her own volition; whatever progress has been achieved has resulted from the ideas propagated by the foreigners within China's gates and the influence the Powers have exercised, America among the rest. Mr. TAFT must be expecting to live to be as old as METHUSELAH if he is looking forward to the time when China will be able to take care of herself independently of outside influence. We can wish Mr. TAFT a long life, but it would be no kindness to hope that his life may be prolonged until China has reached that far-off stage in her development. Really, apart from the encouragement offered to Chinese students, the interview consists of the merest verbiage. Who are those "who seem to be working to keep China half developed, and in a position where she will be imposed upon, and where she can be forced to sell for half price and pay double for all she buys"? This remark would have stood considerable elaboration. The sentence is cryptic, and as few of us probably can guess its meaning we shall not get rid of the notion that there is something very Pecksniffan about the subsequent self-congratulation that the United States has not been a leader in the game. We confess we do not understand what is meant. But be the meaning of that sentence what it may, Mr. TAFT, as the final result of this interview, leaves us in no doubt whatever that CODLIN is the friend of China, and not SHORT.

AMERICA AND THE PHILIPPINES.

(Daily Press, October 15th.)

An interesting discussion is proceeding in some of the American and Spanish papers of Manila as to what would happen were the United States in the immediate future to grant independence to the Philippine Islands. The discussion started with the publication in the *Cablenews* of some views ventilated on the subject by a high official at a semi-private banquet, the gist of his observations being that the granting of independence to the Philippines at the present time could only provoke demands by the Powers on the government of the Philippines Republic for extraterritoriality, such as obtains in China. Our American contemporary supports that view, and declares that the republic would be tossed about like a shuttlecock, its statesmen would be seeking favours here and there, the end being war and ultimate seizure. Perhaps it is the blunt expression of these views that excites resentment. President ROOSEVELT said practically that same thing in more diplomatic language in his message to Congress in December 1904. "At present" to quote the President's words, "the Philippine people are utterly incapable of existing in independence at all, or of building up a civilisation of their own." This expression of opinion, after six years of American occupation, marked a great change in American thought regarding the capacity of the Filipino people for self-government. Ten years ago, when the United States

Government astonished the world by the alarming departure from its established policy that the seizure of Manila indicated, it was monotonously reiterated by state and newspapers in America that the Government had no thought of permanent occupation. That was, no doubt, perfectly true. Somehow the Government had been led to accept the estimate of the Filipino leaders that the people were ripe for independence and a republican form of government. General MACARTHUR shattered that delusion when he wrote: "In the light of existing conditions, it is difficult to realize that there is any possibility of such a future for the islands, especially so as at present (1900), and for many years to come, the necessity of a large American military and naval force is too apparent to admit of discussion." But the General at the same time pointed out that there were, on the other hand, many encouraging conditions to sustain a conviction of the possibility of a republican form of government at some future date. For example, he pointed out that there is no dynasty in the Philippines to destroy, no organised system of feudal laws to eradicate; and no principles inconsistent with republicanism which have solidly insinuated themselves into the national life to displace. Here were several millions of sensitive and credulous people, without allegiance to existing institutions but animated by certain inchoate ideas and aspirations which "by some unfortunate perversion of thought" they conceived to be threatened by America. General MACARTHUR, however, regarded the people as intelligent, generous and flexible, and believed they would yield quickly and with absolute confidence to tuition and advice when thoroughly informed of American institutions and purposes. America, since the pacification of the islands, has set to work on a grand scale to help the people to rise higher and higher in the scale of civilisation and the capacity for self-government, but it needs more than a decade of such instruction to fit the Filipino people to stand alone. Brigadier-General BRADBURY, who, on returning to the United States from the Philippines recently, was subjected at San Francisco to the inevitable "interview", told his questioner that it would be necessary to maintain armed troops in Mindanao during all the present generation, and perhaps for another generation to come. Though the Moros are by no means savages in the ordinary sense of the term, "as they were casting brass cannon long before Columbus discovered America," their arts are those of war, "and the only kind of argument which they can really appreciate is that which has brute force behind it." In short the words uttered by President ROOSEVELT in 1904 are still true. "The Philippine people are utterly incapable of existing in independence." There has not been time, since 1904, for any material change to be made in the position. The Filipino leaders however, have not, apparently, abandoned hope of such a concession at an early date, and the notion of extraterritoriality in our American contemporary is regarded by the Spanish paper *El Mercantil* as "putting up a scarecrow to frighten all thought of immediate independence out of the Filipino mind." In our opinion the dream of independence is as fatuous as it is vain. It is in more senses than one that the people of the Philippines are incapable of existing in independence, and the sooner the Filipino mind is rid of the idea with which it is now obsessed the better. Surely, our American contemporary must recognise that the question of extraterritoriality is a

inevitably arise, if the United States Government were just now to abandon the people of the islands to their own devices. Fortunately, there is no indication of any such intention on the part of the United States. The question as to what would happen if independence were granted now is, therefore, purely academic, and the interest it possesses resides mainly in the revelation that complete political independence is still a living aspiration in the Filipino mind while time and experience have utterly removed such an idea from the minds of the present generation of Americans.

JAPANESE POLICY.

(Daily Press, October 16th.)

The Constitution of Japan has been described by Marquis Iro, its author, as a blend of the British and German systems; but it is unique in its declaration that "The Emperor is sacred and inviolable." In a book of Commentaries on the Constitution Marquis Iro extends this Article with the comment that "The Emperor is Heaven-descended, divine and sacred. He is pre-eminent above all His subjects. He must be revered and is inviolate." It is essential to bear the sacrosanct character of the Emperor in mind when speculating upon the possible effects of such a Rescript as that issued to the nation on Wednesday. "In view of the unceasing advance of civilisation," it says, "it is the wish of the Emperor that, while strengthening the relations with the other Powers, Japan should share fully in the benefits of general improvement, and in order to keep pace with the constant progress, the development of the national resources are of the greatest importance." The Rescript adds that "it is the desire of the Emperor that all classes should act in unison and avoid ostentation and inure themselves to arduous toil." In more respects than one the Rescript reminds us that the East is East and the West is West. To the Western mind it is inconceivable that such a paternal document can have any practical effect on a people who have lived under a constitution for nearly twenty years. But we know as a matter of fact that enormous importance is attached by the people of Japan to any expression of views by the Emperor, and as the rare publication of Rescripts has in the past been associated with great crises in the nation's affairs, the issue of one at the present peaceful time must command, if possible, even more attention than usual. The reason for issuing the Rescript just now is not very obvious. It bears upon a subject which has been very prominent in political discussions during the past two years, and there can be no doubt whatever about the universal recognition in Japan of the very obvious fact that "in order to keep pace with the constant progress, the development of the national resources is of the greatest importance." This is precisely what the commercial classes in the Empire have for the past two years, at least, been proclaiming, and the great retrenchments in national expenditure recently announced may be attributed to a recognition of the fact that the development of the national resources had been checked by the constantly growing burden of taxation. The Imperial Rescript is valuable as a statement of national policy, and we are inclined to think that its issue at the present moment, when there is no apparent call for the instruction it contains, has a significance which does not appear on the surface. It may be a mere coincidence, or it may have been designed, that the publication of this Rescript should

practically synchronise with the arrival of the American Fleet at Yokohama; but there seems nothing inherently improbable in the suggestion we venture to make that the Rescript is intended to constitute an assurance of the highest possible character of the pacific nature of Japan's aims. It will not have been forgotten that in the Yellow Press of America a few months ago the idea was industriously disseminated that Japan was meditating a war with America, and there was the inevitable suggestion that the American battleship fleet was being sent to the Far East with some sinister object not unconnected with Japan. These mischievous rumours led to President ROOSEVELT writing for publication a letter in which it will be remembered he laid special emphasis on the friendliness of America's relations with Japan. It is quite unnecessary to say that there never was in Japan any idea of going to war with America over the immigration or any other question, but, in view of the persistence of an anti-Japanese campaign in a section of the American press, it is as likely as not that the issue at the present time of a Rescript which represents on the highest authority the peaceful aims of Japan's policy is intended as much for the information of the world at large, and the United States in particular, as for His Majesty's own subjects.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

Are the scribes abashed? Do the *Daily Press* men feel relegated to second place? No. The Colonial Secretary may declare he is the editor of the most important newspaper in the Colony, but journalists will not quarrel with him on that account. That is the proper professional pride, to think that his own organ is the best, and I am sure the pressmen on the dailies will not be too proud to associate with their colleague on the *weekly*. Please, spell that word correctly, Mr. Printer. The third letter in the word I have underlined is not "a." Nor would they chaff him about his small circulation. I know Mr. May is not easily dismayed, and should the foreman compositor come to him just before going to press to declare that he is two columns short, Mr. May would not, I am confident, tell him to shove in a line. "This space is let."

The speeches of legislators at home are usually punctuated with applause, loud cheers, hear, hear, and so on, but if you read the utterances of members of the Legislative Council here you will rarely find any of these parenthetical remarks in the report. The cynic may say that none of the speeches are worth applauding, and doubtless he will have many to share his opinion, but I think there must be another explanation. Probably there is something in the atmosphere of the Council Room which makes for frigidity or restraint. Apparently no one but the Colonial Secretary would dream of joking in such a place, and as for applause, or cheers or loud laughter it would awaken echoes which would never be silenced.

Talk about bringing down the house! Mr. Murray Stewart commences to address the Council and—part of the ceiling falls! That is doing the business literally.

What an extraordinary case that was which came before the Magistrate last week where the landlord of a Japanese hotel was summoned for supplying liquor without food. It may be according to ordinance, all right, but I can't see why when a man asks for beer bread and cheese should also be set down in front of him. You may take a horse to the pond but you can't make it drink, and you may supply bread and cheese with beer but you can't make your customer eat if he doesn't want to. Besides, I always understood that beer was both food and drink. The Irishman declared it was food and drink and lodgings too.

A resident who dislikes to see strangers so mercilessly fleeced by ricksha coolies suggests that, as visitors have not the "savvy" to ask the pullers to produce the printed tariff which they carry, boards with printed information as to fares, etc., should be exhibited in one or two public places, such for instance as Blake Pier, the Clock Tower, the approach to hotels etc. The suggestion is not impracticable and if it reduces the number of unedifying squabbles in public between Europeans and ricksha coolies it will have accomplished some good.

Tempus fugit. The Feast of St. Terpsichore is nearly due and the devout might be interested to know that dancing-masters have just held a congress in Berlin, and M. Lefort, "President and founder of the Choreographic Academy of Paris," tells us what its labours were. The object was to "upraise the exquisite art of dancing," which appears to have fallen low owing to spurious teachers, who are masters only in "choreographic breakdowns" and who "spin like teetotums, with the body stiff, the arms bent angularly, and hands spread out, and who often season their ridiculous contortions with gestures, the art of which is measured by their impropriety." M. Lefort, I will take an oath, knows nothing of the Hongkong ball-room. Who has ever seen "choreographic breakdowns" here? Who has seen here the exponents of the art spinning "like teetotums, with the body stiff, the arms bent angularly and hands spread out"? I quote M. Lefort's remarks simply and solely for the benefit of any new arrivals who have been instructed at home by masters in "choreographic breakdowns" so that they may know that their education in the art of dancing lacks the proper finish.

St. Andrew's Day is drawing near. Already the "fiery cross" has been sent out to summon the clans, and a fine gathering of braw lads and bonnie lasses may be expected in the City Hall on November 30th. Kilts are being resurrected from the bottom of trunks and wardrobes, and when the unenlightened Sassenach hears the Caledonians holding converse with each other about skean d'hus, sporrans, and other things he may look forward to seeing the kilted lads appearing once more in all the glory of the garb of old Gaul.

With open verandahs and open windows everywhere in the Colony, Hongkong offers an attractive field for the enterprising burglar. And, according to the *Daily Press*, he is making the most of his opportunities these days, or rather nights. As many as half a dozen burglaries took place last week end, followed by several others during the week, and the police are having a busy time in consequence. It is usual to say nasty things about the force on such occasions, but I don't think we can blame them too much. Temptation, it is said, makes the thief, and where there are so many open windows and sleeping watchmen it would require more honest men than the ordinary coolies to resist the temptation thus presented of adding to their slender means.

The typhoon volunteers have had a few outings this week, but they have done little more than get wet. The spirit is all right, and given the opportunity, the volunteers will, no doubt, do good work. Practice in throwing life buoys is needed. It requires a man of some muscular development to effectively heave a buoy.

The days of wooden walls are not yet over. Only on Saturday a guardship built entirely of wood was launched by the Kowloon Dock Company for the Portuguese Government. The world has moved a little since wooden ships played their part in the history of nations, and it is not likely that the "Dilly" will have anything like the exciting experiences which used to fall to the lot of the stately fighting vessels of European countries.

Nobody, I think, will deny that Hongkong is musical. Your contributor, "Down South," may not subscribe to this very heartily. But makee. Gramophones, megaphones, harmoniums, bugles, pianos, combined with the

musical cats imported by a benevolent Government at twenty cents a piece, doubtless go a great way to enhance the novelty of life in Hongkong, but it is doubtful if they produce that soothing influence which is supposed to be the attribute of music. Neither is it such a "concourse of sweet sounds" that contributes to that tired feeling reputed to be peculiar to Hongkong. No they rouse one instead to energy, to say things, to seek things, to throw things, and mayhap to miss things. Yes, Hongkong is musical.

Cynics who poke fun at our Volunteers will seize with avidity on the clause in the latest orders which states that members who are desirous of taking a servant to camp should apply to headquarters for a pass. Is the Hongkong Volunteer Corps like what the American army is alleged to be? Does it consist entirely of officers? It used to be said that the American army consisted of captains and colonels, and a man may be forgiven for asking what a fellow who is playing at Tommy Atkins for a fortnight needs with a servant. Surely he can black his own boots for the little time he is under canvas, and surely it does not entail too great a strain to pull through his own rifle every day? Volunteers at home would laugh at such luxuries. I should think the Hongkong youth could play the game and leave his boy at home for the two weeks he is exercising at Stoncutters.

My word, what a lot of free drinks there will be at the Volunteer camp on the first nights. About thirty supernumeraries have to wet their stripes. Success to them all, say I.

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. E. C. L. Lewis to act as Postmaster-General until further notice.

Forevading the Stamp Ordinance by neglecting to put a stamp on a receipt for \$30, Mr. J. R. Wood on Oct. 13th fined the master of the Po Yuen Kun Chan shop, of 13, Queen's Street, \$25, in default 14 days' imprisonment.

A succession of typhoon warnings during the past week kept practically large numbers of small craft in the refuge and caused much inconvenience to shipping.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held yesterday at which it was reported that an outbreak of foot and mouth disease had occurred at the cowshed at Kennedy's stables. The meeting declared the premises to be an infected area.

The extract of meteorological observations made at the Hongkong Observatory during September shows that the average maximum temperature for that month 85.3 was degrees. The rainfall was 13.720 inches, and we had 179.8 hours of sunshine and 67 hours of cloudiness.

The burglar who broke into the shop of Messrs. Hooain, Ali and Co., last week has been captured. He turned out to be an employee, who had been befriended by the firm mentioned. On the charge being proved, Mr. Kemp sentenced the defendant to two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

The Middlesex Regiment is preparing for its early departure from Hongkong. A military tattoo will be given one of these nights, and the exercises on the Parade Ground have become unusually interesting. Circles and figures of eight are gone through with creditable precision, but the most significant feature is the formation of the word "good bye," the letters being outlined by the soldiers.

A special sale of children's underclothing, dresses and embroidered articles was held at the Italian Convent on Oct. 12th, and, as in previous years, attracted many ladies. All the articles offered for sale were the work of orphans of the convent, and the beautiful embroidery work exhibited told of much skill and patience in its preparation. The prices at which the various articles were offered were exceptionally cheap considering the quality of the work. The sale will continue until the 15th instant, and the Superiores of the Convent hopes to see a large attendance of the ladies of the Colony during the next three days.

The only case of communicable disease reported in the Colony last week was one European case of enteric fever.

The Hon. Mr. Hewett returned to the Colony on Oct. 15th, by the P. & O. steamer "Assaye." Mr. Calthrop was also a passenger.

On Oct. 10th there was launched from the yard at Hunghom the new Portuguese guardship built by the Dock Co. to the order of the Portuguese Government. Mrs. Leiria, wife of the Portuguese Consul, christened the vessel *Dilly*, and the usual complimentary speeches, followed. The new guardship, which is built entirely of wood, was afterwards towed to a buoy in the bay.

The interport cricket team left by the P. & O. "Assaye" for Shanghai yesterday. The selected team is as follows:—W. C. D. Turner, captain; A. E. Lanning, A. A. Claxton, Lieut. Houghton, W. Edwards, R. O. Hutchison, Lieut. Home, Bandsman Barton, R. E. O. Bird, Corporal Sharpe, and A. W. J. Peake. Mr. C. A. Carr and Captain Beasley will represent Hongkong in the tennis matches.

An interesting ceremony took place at St. Joseph's College on Saturday when Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, Inspector of Schools, presented certificates to shorthand students. Three out of eleven candidates passed at the recent speed examination under the auspices of the local shorthand committee, namely F. M. de Graca Ozorio (100 words), Carlos Sequeira (100 words), and Evaristo Marques (80 words and full certificates), but better results were obtained in the theory examination when seven out of nine candidates passed. They were Pan Kan Wing, Peter Prevost, Joachim Thuam, Arthur Camaroes Ong, John G. Heap, Jose Tavares, and John Silva. Mr. Wolfe, in the course of his preliminary observations, stated that the shorthand committee, by holding two examinations in the first year, had already justified its existence.

DARING ROBBERY AT TAI HANG.

A daring robbery is reported to have occurred in an opium divan at Tai Hang Village early on October 15th. Four natives entered at about eight o'clock on Wednesday night, and continued to smoke opium until two on the following morning. Shortly afterwards, when all the other customers had left, the men suddenly attacked the keeper of the divan, one of them striking him a blow on the head with a log of wood which laid him senseless. The robbers then ransacked the shop, escaping with opium and money to the value of \$59. The police are investigating.

A NEW SOLICITOR.

At the Supreme Court on Oct. 15 before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz (Acting Puisne Judge) the Attorney General (Hon. Mr. Rees Davies, K. C.) attended and moved that Mr. W. E. L. Shenton be admitted to practice as a solicitor. In doing so he stated that Mr. Shenton had been articled to a Manchester firm of solicitors for five years and was admitted a solicitor on the 1st May of this year. He had filed the necessary documents. He came out here under the auspices of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, and he (the Attorney General) had great pleasure in asking that he be admitted and enrolled as a solicitor of this court.

His Lordship said he had great pleasure in approving of the admission of Mr. Shenton and expressed the hope that his career might be a prosperous one.

An interesting wedding was celebrated at Singapore on the 6th inst. when Viscount Pierre de Bondy Riario, eldest son of the French Consul at Singapore, was married to Miss Gladys Lodge-Grey, daughter of Mrs. Chalmers.

From Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Ltd. we have received a copy of the new issue of the "List of the Higher Metropolitan and Provincial Authorities of China," compiled by the Chinese Secretaries of H. B. M. Legation at Peking and corrected to September 1st, 1908, by Mr. S. F. Mayers, Assistant Chinese Secretary. A shorter title for it would be "Who's Who among Chinese Officials," for it is not a simple directory list of officials but the career of each is given.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on Oct. 15th in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DRAUTY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

COLONEL DARLING, R. E. (General Officer Commanding).

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G., (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. W. REES DAVIES, K.C., (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G., (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. E. A. IRVING (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY, (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. H. A. W. SLADE.

Hon. Mr. W. J. GRESSON.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by direction of H. E. the Governor, laid on the table Financial Minute No. 60, and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by direction of H. E. the Governor, laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee No. 17 and moved its adoption. In connection with the report he also laid on the table a certificate certifying that the Appropriation Ordinance of 1909 was considered clause by clause and approved by the Finance Committee, and the Committee recommended that the Bill might be dealt with by the Council as a Bill reported on by a Committee of the whole Council.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

THE ESTIMATES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—In view of the certificate I have just laid on the table, and no member objecting, I beg to move the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding five million five hundred and seventy thousand four hundred and twenty-seven dollars to the public service of the year 1909.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the Bill was read a third time, and passed.

REGULATION OF THEATRES ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance for regulating theatres and other places of public resort.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time, and passed.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I appoint the following committees for the session 1908-09:—

Finance Committee—All the members excepting the Governor.

Law Committee—The Attorney-General, Hon. Mr. F. J. Badeley, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, and Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock.

Public Works Committee—Hon. Mr. A. M. Thomson, Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Hon. W. J. Gresson, Hon. Mr. H. W. Slade.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The Council stands adjourned sine die.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following vote was passed:—

JUDICIAL AND LEGAL.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Four hundred and eighty-nine Dollars and forty-seven Cents (\$489.47) in aid

of the vote, Judicial and Legal Departments, D.—Land Registry Office, Personal Emoluments, for the following items:—

New Territories.

Allowance to Passed Cadet acting as Assistant Land Officer, (from 3rd April to 1st July, 1908), \$296.55
Exchange Compensation, 192.92

Total, \$489.47

KOWLOON CRICKET CLUB.

The annual general meeting of the members of the Kowloon Cricket Club was held on Oct. 15th in the Club Pavilion. Mr. H. T. Richardson presided over a good attendance.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and balance sheet and, in doing so, congratulated the members on the satisfactory position of the club.

The report was adopted.

The election of office-bearers resulted as follows: President, Mr. H. N. Mody; vice-president, Mr. W. Stewart; captain of the cricket team, Mr. S. Lightfoot; vice-captain, Mr. J. P. Robinson; captain of the hockey team, Mr. C. W. Jefferies; hon. secretary, Mr. T. Chee; hon. treasurer, Mr. F. P. Shroff. Committee—Messrs. Mead, Menagh, Smith, Clelland, Jefferies, Harvey, Neilson, and Robinson.

On the suggestion of Mr. CHAPMAN, it was agreed that the retiring Chairman be appointed honorary vice president, and votes of thanks were awarded the retiring committee and chairman, as well as the hon. secretary and treasurer.

The report stated: Gentlemen, In presenting their annual report and statement of accounts for the year ending 31st August, 1908, the Committee feel that there is considerable cause for satisfaction at the result of the year's working. The Club has been placed on a sounder financial basis than for a long time past.

The Committee decided that the time had arrived when the Club should possess some more permanent structure, and thanks to the great interest shown by our President, Mr. H. N. Mody and our Chairman Mr. Richardson and members, they were able to complete the present pavilion, and that they were justified in this undertaking is amply shown in the increased attendance and the number of new members enrolled. Out of the issue of 200 Debentures, 18 have been taken up.

The Committee desire to record their thanks to H. E. Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.G., for having kindly attended on the 11th July to open the Building, and to all those members and others who have made various gifts to the Club, and to Messrs. Stewart and Libaud for the attention given by them during the construction of the building.

The ground is in a better condition than in the past, the cricket pitch has been returfed and water has been laid on, which materially assists in the ground work. The Committee sanctioned (with the approval of the Government) the lying by the Amateur Athletic Association of a cinder track; this has greatly improved the appearance of the ground and should tend to popularise sport in Kowloon.

The Secretary of State for India has appointed Mr. J. B. Brunyate to be the Indian representative on the International Opium Commission which assembles at Shanghai in January next.

It will interest philatelists to know that the following surcharged stamps were put into circulation in Siam from the 28th ult.:—Five atts red stamp surcharged to four atts, Twenty-four atts blue to two atts; and Ten atts blue to nine atts. Two hundred thousand of the first have been printed; five hundred thousand of the second; and one hundred and fifty thousand of the last named variety. It will thus be seen that there are, says the *Bangkok Times*, plenty of surcharged stamps for collectors. The postal authorities anticipate a big demand for the new surcharges for dispatch by the forthcoming English mail. Our contemporary understands that more surcharges are contemplated.

THE BUILDING COLLAPSE AT YAUMATI.

ARCHITECT COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

Before Mr. J. H. Kemp, sitting as coroner, and Messrs. F. Austin, Hugh Dinning and G. G. Catohick (jurors), the inquiry concerning the deaths of six Chinese, who were killed as the result of a collapse at 38, Portland Street, Yaumati, during the typhoon of 27-28th July, was continued.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, represented the Crown, and Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared on behalf of Messrs. Palmer and Turner, the architects.

Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works, recalled, was cross-examined by Mr. Gedge. He stated the lime generally produced in Hongkong was not good unless it was looked after. Lime procured by the burning of shells or coral, such as used here, was not the best. The Government had not given up the testing of mortar because they found there were so many different results to tests that it was absolutely unreliable. The Public Works Department still tested mortar. Witness explained the method of testing, and said he had every faith in it. The mortar in the building in question was to be one of lime to one of red earth. Witness had visited the building. He saw that the bricks were clean. Rain washing on the external walls ought to soften the mortar. It might do so temporarily, but should get hard again. Witness was not aware that there were 20 double courses of bricks counting from the ground up to the first floor of the flank wall, and that they were properly bonded with the exception of three.

I'll put it to you that the bonding of the blue bricks in that wall is absolutely perfect?—I didn't come to that conclusion on my examination.

Did you examine it carefully?—I had a good look at it.

Proceeding, witness said Messrs. Butterfield and Swire did excellent work in building. The 26 houses in question were completed before the 1906 typhoon, and withstood that. The walls blown down were built in accordance with the Ordinance then in force. If they had not been so, they would not have been passed.

You said the thickness of walls was increased by a subsequent Ordinance?—Yes.

That has nothing to do with these houses?—No.

Well, I can't make out why you mentioned it. It has nothing to do with my clients?—No, further than that, in common with the other architects, they opposed the proposition for the thickness of walls.

I suppose, as a matter of fact, you mentioned it as an excuse for the Government not having found out before that the walls were not thick enough?—No.

In your evidence you stated that, in 1902, there was only one building inspector. Don't you consider the Government or your Department culpable for having only one inspector to do the whole work of the Colony?—I certainly think it was impossible for one inspector to exercise an efficient supervision over the building operations.

Don't you think it was culpable of the Government or your department not having proper supervision?—I should hardly say it was culpable; perhaps it was an error of judgment.

Was it ever brought to the notice of the Governor or the Colonial Secretary?—I can't tell you prior to my own occupation of the office I now hold.

But after that?—After that it was.

Was it pointed out that typhoons would occur in the Colony, that buildings would collapse, and that more competent supervision should be had?—I did not represent it quite in that manner. I said the inspecting staff was inadequate, and should be increased.

You say the Government, because they did not employ a sufficient number of building inspectors, called on the architects to do their work for them?—Not to do Government work, but their own work.

What about the Ordinance, does it not become a farce?—I don't see it.

The Ordinance says buildings should be

inspected?—The Ordinance certainly makes provision for inspection.

Do you think an architect inspecting these 26 houses should notice every different bit of bonding and mortar?—I won't go so far as that.

You don't expect an architect to sit on the works and do nothing else but inspect?—No.

Must an architect not rely to a great extent on the loyalty and bona fides of his foreman or overseer?—He ought to.

Is it extremely difficult to get good overseers?—It is very seldom you can pick them up locally.

And is it not very difficult to get good work out of Chinese contractors?—It certainly involves a good deal of trouble, as a rule.

And, unless they are watched the whole time, they put bad material into a work?—It is extremely probable.

When your proof was taken by the Crown was it pointed out that some excuse would be necessary as to Mr. Tooker's conduct?

Mr. Bowley objected to the question.

Mr. Gedge—I submit the question is perfectly in order, but I'll put it in another way. When you found these buildings had collapsed, and found that Mr. Tooker had granted a certificate, you saw that some excuse would have to be given for Mr. Tooker's conduct?—No.

Either the certificate ought to be given, or it ought not to be given?—I presume that is a correct statement.

Now, Sir, don't you think that that certificate was properly given at the time by Mr. Tooker, and that the building was properly built?—I can't say the building was properly built, but I think Mr. Tooker was justified in giving the certificate.

Mr. C. W. Jeffries, assistant at the Observatory, said in cross-examination that it was quite possible the wind was travelling at 90 miles an hour in the typhoon of 27-28th July. Some of the instruments at the Observatory had seen a lot of service.

Mr. A. Denison, architect and engineer, deposed to having carried on business in Hongkong for the last 27 years. On 18th October witness inspected the flank wall of 35 Portland Street, and examined the bonding. From the top of the mound to the level of the first floor there were forty courses. From the level of the first floor to the level of the second the wall was properly bonded right through. The top floor also appeared to be properly bonded. On the verandah side the brickwork on the ground floor was not quite so good, and there were five or six courses without bonding. Witness thought many of the cracks in the first party wall had been caused by the collapse. He thought the wind probably got into the houses by the front wall of 35 feet falling in. He did not consider this front wall would have fallen unless it had been blown down by the typhoon. Witness thought the wind was concentrated on this block by reason of its situation and the open space to the south east. Lime mortar in this Colony was not as good as could be obtained in England. Here the lime was obtained from burnt shells; in England it was obtained from limestone. Witness did not find it possible to get building works properly supervised here. Directly the architect's back was turned the Chinese bricklayer would commence doing cheap work.

What class of foreman is procurable?—Generally a seaman out of work.

Cross-examined by Mr. Bowley, witness said the usual commission charged by architects on Chinese houses was 2½ per cent. Fair mortar could be made out of one part lime and one part red earth, as good as any mortar used in Hongkong.

A juror asked if it would not be possible to obtain independent and expert evidence regarding the bonding of these walls.

His Worship—It would be very hard to say in a case of this kind what would be independent evidence.

Mr. Bowley—I submit the evidence of the Building Authority is absolutely independent.

His Worship—What the juror means is that there are two contradictory statements and he would like to have a third.

Mr. Bowley—I should like to point out that the evidence given by the Building Authority, a witness is really against their own interests, because it lays them open to the obvious retort that it is their fault.

His Worship said it would not be possible to call further evidence on the point, and adjourned.

The inquiry was resumed on the 16th inst.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, represented the Crown, and Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared on behalf of Messrs. Palmer and Turner, the architects.

His Worship said it had been suggested to him, in connection with the question asked by a juror at the last hearing, that an officer of the Royal Engineers might be asked to inspect the bonding. He also understood that photographs were being taken of the broken ends of the wall. He did not intend, however, to call fresh evidence or to wait for these photographs.

Mr. Bowley was then asked to address the jury, but intimated that he thought Mr. Gedge should speak first.

His Worship—In a case of this kind no one knows who the evidence is going to tell against.

Mr. Bowley—It cannot tell against me. I represent the Crown. I think the opening and subsequent evidence has sufficiently indicated where the defect lies.

Mr. Gedge—Mr. Bowley is not here in the position of a Crown Prosecutor, and he ought to fairly, and without bias, put forward his evidence and make his speech on that evidence. Nobody at present is indictable for anything.

His Worship—I don't know what the practice has been before.

Mr. Bowley—In this case my friend appeared for a party, and after I called all the evidence I wished to, he called further evidence. Surely that puts him in the position of a defendant. If my friend had not called any evidence it would be quite a different position.

Mr. Gedge—I only called evidence with the consent of the coroner. I am not in any way a party to the proceedings.

Mr. Bowley—I am entirely in your Worship's hands in the matter.

His Worship said he would prefer Mr. Bowley to address the jury.

Mr. Bowley said the jury would recognise that this was a case of extreme importance. The collapse occasioned the deaths of six persons, but the small number killed was owing to the way in which it happened. Although only six persons were killed, the collapse possibly endangered the lives of no less than 100 persons. He appeared for the Crown in this matter and took it that it was the first duty of the Crown, as the personification of Government, to protect the lives and limbs of its subjects. The jury did not require Mr. Denison to prove that the typhoon blew the wall down. It was a matter of common knowledge, and it had been proved in Court that the July typhoon was of extraordinary violence, and blew from the S.S.E. The flank wall of this block of houses was in a high degree exposed to the effects of a S.S.E. gale. If they found, on inquiring into the history of this wall that it had been properly built in accordance with the law, and in accordance with the skill of architects and builders, then there would be nothing more to say beyond that it was a regrettable accident. But a cursory glance at the remains of the flank wall revealed the fact that it was badly bonded in the heart of it. It was also observed that the wall fell more or less in single bricks. These houses were practically new; they were only six years old, and had not had time to deteriorate, but on the contrary the mortar, cement and other materials must have had time to consolidate. Mr. Bowley next dealt with the history of these walls, which he characterised as most extraordinary. It was not at all a pleasant thing, he said, to have to attack a man in his absence. Mr. Tooker was not here to explain his action in any way, but the jury could see how Mr. Chatham, his superior in the department, did his best to shield Mr. Tooker from any blame—very naturally and very properly. But the speaker thought the jury would consider that Mr. Tooker took a very serious responsibility upon himself when he disregarded the report of the Inspector of Buildings and the Assistant Engineer that the wall should be pulled down. He disregarded these reports and allowed the architects to strap

up the houses with bars of iron. Mr. Denison was called to support the theory of the architects, and the best he could say for this wall was that there were quite a number of cross bonds missing in portions of it. An attempt was made to show that good mortar was not obtainable in Hongkong, but practically all the houses in the Colony were built of mortar composed of local shell-burned lime and red earth. Several parties were concerned with the building of these houses—the owners, the architects, the contractors and in a different degree the Building Authority. The owners, Humphreys' Estate and Finance Co., employed one of the leading firms of architects in the Colony to put up 26 Chinese houses for them. Apparently they put the whole matter in the hands of their architects, who prepared plans and called tenders, the lowest of which was not accepted. The contract was prepared by Messrs. Palmer and Turner, and the work was carried out by them. There was no suggestion that the architects did not have an entirely free hand in the matter, and he submitted that when owners of property employed the best skill they could in a work of this sort, whatever blame might attach to anybody else, no blame attached to the owners. The contractors had practically vanished; there was no member of the firm left except one old man, who said he had nothing to do with the building of the houses. The sub-contractors who took over the job and finished it had also vanished, so there was not much use of discussing the liability and responsibility of the contractors. But in this case the architects were peculiarly responsible for the whole business. They had signed the notice of intention to build, and the fact of their signing that notice threw upon them by law the responsibility of seeing that the whole of the provisions of the Building Ordinance were carried out. They were not bound to sign that notice, but they had, and they could not shift the responsibility on to any other person whatever. Not only had they undertaken the initial responsibility, but they also undertook the supervision of the houses. Of course they had not done these things gratuitously. They were paid a commission of five per cent. on the contract price, which was considerable. Under the terms of the contract they were put in almost absolute control over the contractor. Everything had to be done to their satisfaction; they could condemn any materials and any bad work; and they could withhold payment to the contractor. Finding that these houses were so badly built, they might have refused to pay the contractor anything. In addition to the Statutory responsibility which fell upon them, there was a Common Law responsibility. If negligence were found against any person who undertook any work or action which tended to the danger of the public, the Common Law threw on him criminal responsibility. The Ordinance under which these houses were built was passed in 1891, and he submitted that in the construction of these houses that law had been broken. Another set of persons the jury had to consider was the Building Authority and his assistants. If the architects or contractors had done anything wrong, they could not possibly shield themselves by saying that the inspector of Buildings or any of his assistants had neglected their duty. They were not appointed to assist the architects in carrying out their work, but were in the position of police. Mr. Bowley thought that Mr. Tooker committed a grave error of judgment when he passed these buildings, but his error of judgment was nothing at all compared with the error of judgment, mistake or carelessness of the architects who supervised the erection of these buildings. It was said that it was very difficult indeed to find reliable contractors, reliable foremen and honest bricklayers. But this block of 26 houses was worth \$74,000. Was not that a sufficiently important job for an architect to visit as often as necessary to insure the work being properly done? They were told by Mr. Bird that the mortar was never tested. How was it possible to tell the quality of mortar if it was not tested? It was quite obvious that Mr. Turner did not see that the work had been properly carried out. After the jury had found what caused the death of these persons and what caused the collapse, they would have to say whether anything else contributed to the collapse. He submitted that the

faulty construction and bad building contributed to the collapse, and that the architects were responsible for the bad work. If the jury thought they were negligent it was their duty to say so; if, on the other hand they thought any other person negligent, it was their duty to say so.

Mr. Gedge said if the jury came to the conclusion that the fall of the wall was contributed to by criminal negligence, there was no doubt they could add a rider to their verdict to that effect, and it would then be for his Worship to say, according to the facts disclosed, whether he should commit that person for trial. But it was not necessary to find anyone guilty of manslaughter, or to pass any opinion whatsoever. The jurors were present to ascertain the cause of death, and were not called upon to find anyone responsible. He submitted that it was not the primary object of this inquiry to find out whether anyone was criminally responsible or criminally negligent. Mr. Gedge referred at length to the law on the subject of criminal or culpable negligence, and said that his client, to be liable in this case, would have to be proved grossly negligent, and grossly was a very strong word. When Mr. Tooker issued a certificate for this work, he submitted that his clients' Statutory liability came to an end. The duty of an architect was to prepare plans, get in tenders and superintend construction. Every plan under the Building Ordinance had to be approved by the Surveyor General, and in every case the plans were so approved, so the first duty of the architect was satisfactorily discharged. As to the other duties: There was a European foreman on the job, and his duties were to see that the buildings were put up in accordance with the plans and specifications and to see that the walls were properly bonded. It must have been obvious to the jury that the architect could not possibly superintend every detail of construction. All the witnesses for the Crown, in a casual, broadcast way, said that the bonding was bad; then Mr. Denison got into the box and took the trouble to specify as to what bonding was good and what was bad. Because six bonding bricks were missing the Crown Solicitor wanted to make out that it was an absolutely rotten wall, and that it would have fallen without a typhoon. The action of Mr. Tooker in passing the plan was sufficient proof as to his satisfaction of the buildings, and he submitted that the architect, Mr. Tooker and everyone else had done his duty. If every wall with a crack in it was pulled down, Hongkong would soon be demolished. He submitted to the jury that there had been no negligence by his client.

His Worship pointed out to the jurors that if they found there had been gross negligence it was their duty to bring in a verdict accordingly. They had two things to direct their minds to. The first was the cause of death. The second was whether anyone was guilty of gross negligence amounting to manslaughter. In order to find manslaughter they had to find that three links existed in a chain. The first was, that death was due to the collapse; the second, that the collapse was substantially contributed to by bad work; the third, that the bad work was due to gross or criminal negligence. Negligence that amounted to manslaughter must be gross. The jurors were not there to actually try any person, or to say whether there was a *prima facie* case against any person. They were to try to disentangle the liability of the different partners in the firm of Messrs. Palmer and Turner. As a matter of law, he did not think one partner was liable for the acts of the other partners; he might be civilly. Mr. Turner was chiefly in charge of this work, but he was now absent from the Colony, and on certain points which turned against him he might have explanations to offer. It seemed to his Worship that it was not safe to act on that evidence without hearing Mr. Turner's explanations. Therefore the case might be confined to Mr. Bird. Mr. Bird submitted the plan, and must have known this wall should have had special dimensions and that ought to have made him very careful of the construction of it. He said it was the duty of the foreman to see that the mortar was up to specification, but his Worship thought the jury would say it was the duty of the architect. Mr. Bird did not appear to have

satisfied himself in any way of the foreman's experience, whereas it was his duty to have satisfied himself in some way. Again, he appeared to have known perfectly well that this contractor was putting in bad work, and that should have made him specially careful. He also sent the notice to inspect, so he was the member of the firm who had to satisfy himself that the buildings were in a fit state to be passed. But the different members of the firm tried to get the contractors to put in good work by making them take portions of the buildings down, and so on. In considering Mr. Bird's liability the jurors should bear in mind that although the bonding was quite bad in some parts of the wall, it was quite good in other parts.

The jury then retired, returning into Court after an absence of forty minutes, when the foreman (Mr. Austin) announced that

They found that death was due to a collapse, caused by the typhoon of 27th-28th July.

They were not unanimous with regard to the question of gross negligence, two being of opinion that there had been gross negligence on the part of Mr. Bird, while the third held that there was negligence, but not gross negligence.

They were unanimously of the opinion that Mr. Tooker committed a serious error of judgment in passing the house and issuing the certificate.

His Worship—Regarding the third part, I don't know whether I ought to record it, my reason being that Mr. Tooker is not here to give any explanation of his conduct, and I don't understand clearly why you wish to censure Mr. Tooker without any reference to the architect who supervised the greater part of the work. I mention this because I referred to the fact that Mr. Turner was not here, but did not refer to Mr. Tooker.

The Foreman—That is our opinion from the evidence brought before us. There may be evidence to be heard on the other side.

His Worship—Two out of three jurors having found gross negligence on the part of Mr. Bird, I don't think I can say there is no case. It is my duty to commit him.

His Worship then committed Mr. Bird for trial on a charge of manslaughter, allowing bail in his own recognizances in the sum of \$1,000.

JAPAN AND THE AMERICAN FLEET.

In response to a petition received from American residents in Japan, the Authorities have given instructions that no geisha are to be employed to attend on the sailors of the American Fleet.

As the day approaches for the arrival of the Fleet Japanese Press is enthusiastically anticipating the event and the keenest interest is being manifested by the general public.

REMARKABLE JAPANESE IMPERIAL RESCRIPT.

A remarkable Imperial rescript was issued on the 14th inst. It states that in view of the unceasing advance of civilisation it is the wish of the Emperor that while strengthening the relations with the other powers Japan should share fully in the benefits of general improvement and in order to keep pace with the constant progress the development of the national resources are of the greatest importance.

The rescript adds that it is the desire of the Emperor that all classes should act in unison and avoid ostentation and incur themselves to arduous toil.

KOREAN PILGRIMS KILLED BY JAPANESE PATROL.

A Japanese patrol, it is reported, has killed a number of Korean pilgrims. The pilgrims, to the number of thirty-four, at the outset of their journey to the temple, informed the Japanese gendarme of their intention, but the troop understanding that the Koreans were insurgents attacked the village inn and killed twenty-one.

The "Jiji" condemns the precipitate action of the troops in slaughtering unarmed men and demands an investigation and the payment of compensation.

SUPREME COURT.

Thursday, October 15th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

A DEFENDANT'S ILLNESS.

When the case of Sang Cheong and Company v. M. Christie was called Mr. J. H. Gardiner, for the defendant, asked for an adjournment as his client was too unwell to appear. He would produce a medical certificate.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing, on behalf of the plaintiffs, objected. He said that the money had been owing his clients for two years and the writ had been issued more than a month.

Mr. Gardiner explained that his client was too ill to appear before and a medical certificate to that effect was produced.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing explained that when the writ was issued Mr. Reginald Harding had the case and Mr. Dixon appeared for him and asked for an adjournment. An adjournment had been granted and then Mr. Gardiner took up the case and also obtained a further adjournment. It had been going on for a fortnight.

His Lordship thought it would be rather unfair to have gone on in face of the medical certificate.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing admitted that it would have been so at that time. Again his friend came into court and asked for an adjournment. Perhaps the woman was ill, but after the writ she was in his office.

Mr. Gardiner—She has not been in your office since then?

His Lordship—I don't see how I can go behind a medical certificate.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing—That was last Friday. Mr. Gardiner—I have asked for another medical certificate. I understand Dr. Bellios will attend to-day.

His Lordship—If that certificate is put in I think the defendant is entitled to a further adjournment.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing—If this certificate is not produced I would ask your Lordship to take it to-morrow.

Mr. Gardiner—Subject to the certificate being produced then your Lordship will not allow costs, simply the costs in the case, not the costs in this adjournment.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing—You must pay that in any case.

Mr. Gardiner—No.

His Lordship—Subject to the certificate being produced I will postpone it to-morrow. If it is not filed I will deal with it.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing—My client is entitled to the costs of to-day.

His Lordship—It is not the usual practice.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing—In any case I am entitled to the costs of this adjournment.

Mr. Gardiner—That is for the Registrar.

His Lordship—I will put the case in to-morrow's list.

AN INGENIOUS DEFENCE.

Lo Sau Ting sued the Ying Tak Lung for \$152. Mr. J. H. Gardiner appeared for the plaintiff and defendants were represented by Mr. Morrell.

Mr. Gardiner explained that the plaintiff, a very ignorant man, came to Hongkong with the intention of proceeding to Salina Cruz. He asked the defendants' manager to procure a ticket for him, handing him \$160 which was all the money he possessed. Defendant added \$20 to this in order to make up the necessary \$180. The ticket was obtained, but as defendant was not passed by the doctor, the money was refunded. He asked the defendants to retain the money for him, drawing only \$8. When he subsequently asked for the money he could not get it, though defendant admitted at a meeting of the Sunning people that he owed the money. Later he offered \$27, holding the remainder as he wanted to pay the costs of his solicitors, Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell.

The defence was that the manager conducted the passage booking as a personal business. The hearing was adjourned.

AMERICAN EXPORTS TO THE FAR EAST.

The figures of the staple United States exports to China for the fiscal year ending with last June do not, says the "Journal" of the American Asiatic Association, make very cheerful reading. The total of cotton piece goods has sunk below even the figures of 1907, and the indications of improvement are still of the most slender character. The export trade as a whole reveals totals of a less depressing character. That is to say, the exports to the Chinese Empire for the fiscal year 1908 were valued at \$22,343,671, against \$25,704,532 last year, for Hongkong they were \$3,975,161, against \$8,332,208 in 1907. It is true that since 1904 the total of our exports to China has considerably exceeded these figures, but there is some comfort in the reflection that a restoration to normal dimensions of the exports of cotton piece goods would bring the annual total to an amount hitherto unexampled. The imports from China show a decrease under the figures of the last four years, but still stand at the fairly satisfactory average of \$26,020,922. With Japan, on the other hand, our entire trade shows a gradual increase, and, when account is taken of the exports which figure in the returns as destined for "Japanese China," a very substantial increase. To Japan proper the total of the exports for the fiscal year 1908 is \$41,432,327, against \$38,770,027 for the preceding year. But the exports to the Liao-tung Peninsula account for another \$8,198,896, against \$1,542,841 for 1907, and only \$21,512 in 1906. The imports from Japan are some \$800,000 less than they were the year before, the total for 1908 being \$68,107,545—two-thirds of which are accounted for by American purchases of silk in Japan.

A FAR EASTERN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

One result of this year's Medical Congress at Manila has been the formation of a "Far Eastern Medical Association," its object being to bring together all legally qualified medical men practising east of Suez (not including India). A council has been formed consisting of three American medical men in the Philippine Islands, and all the delegates from foreign countries who attended the recent Congress. Transactions will be published and issued to members free. It is proposed to hold a biennial meeting in the various colonies, and it is hoped that the several Governments concerned will favour the project. The delegates voted in favour of the establishment of this Association, with the proviso that their Governments approved of their action. The Government of the Philippines issued a formal invitation to the President and Council of the Far Eastern Medical Association to hold its first meeting at Manila in 1910.

GENEROUS GIFT TO UNION CHURCH.

AN ANONYMOUS DONOR.

A pleasant surprise was sprung on the Committee of Management of Union Church at its last meeting. Considerable repairs to the Church, the Manse, and the Church Hall have recently been in progress, including the making good of a large amount of damage by white ants and by the typhoon of the 27th of July; and an item on the agenda was the question as to how this expenditure was to be met. Mr. D. Macdonald, Convener of the Building Committee, reported that the outlay to date amounted to \$1,142.18; and then read a letter from Mr. B. Mitchell, stating that a member of the Church, who desires to be anonymous, had paid the bill for \$1,142.18, which duly discharged, was laid on the table. A complete overhaul of the exterior of the Church buildings is about to be proceeded with as soon as the dry season is established.

The *Japan Gazette* says that, although there have been various rumours to the contrary, it is now ascertained that the China Squadron will not visit either Yokohama or Kobe until the spring of next year.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Oct. 13th at the Board Room, Mr. C. McI Messer (President) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, C.M.G., (Vice-President), the Hon. Mr. H. A. W. Slade, Messrs. A. Shelton Hooper, Dr. Pearse (Medical Officer of Health), and the following officials: Dr. Macfarlane (Assistant Medical Officer of Health), and A. Gibson (Secretary).

MR. HOOPER'S QUESTION.

On the reading of the minutes, the President submitted information for which Mr. Hooper asked in May last. Mr. Hooper indicated that it would not be necessary now for him to move the resolution he had intended, and asked that the information be circulated.

This course was agreed to.

INSPECTION OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

A letter from the Government forwarding rules for guidance of sanitary inspectors in making reports on nuisances under Part III of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance for the information of the Building Authority was read.

Mr. HOOPER—As the Government has ordered all government buildings to be placed under the same rules and regulations as buildings privately owned, I think it is drawing an invidious distinction on the part of those concerned to exclude from the byelaws any buildings which are not in accordance with the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance. I am quite sure the Government does not wish to exclude Government buildings.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I am not aware it is stated that Government buildings are to be excluded from the scope of these regulations.

Mr. HOOPER—Do you admit they are included?

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—It is not said they are. There is nothing to indicate to the inspectors. If the inspectors have to make an inspection of Government buildings then their inspection will be subject to these regulations. I don't see anything to discuss.

Mr. HOOPER—I would ask the Director of Public Works whether he admits it is the duty of sanitary inspectors to inspect Government buildings once a month and report to the head of the Sanitary Department any contravention of the byelaws. If you admit that I am satisfied.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I have nothing to do with Sanitary inspectors. They are subject to the Head of the Sanitary Department.

Mr. HOOPER—That answer is not satisfactory. His Excellency has ordered that Government buildings are to be subject to the same regulations as privately owned property. The President of this Board stated at the beginning of this year that Government buildings were inspected by sanitary inspectors once a month excepting those buildings under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health, such as the hospital, gaol, etc. I believe there have been breaches of these regulations, as it is patent to anyone in the Colony that Government buildings are not kept in the same sanitary state that private property is required to be. I have called attention to individual cases, as I mentioned in April last. If some of the defects which I enumerated as existing on Government buildings were found on private property, the owner would be run up by the heels to the Police Court in four-and-twenty hours. One case to which I alluded was the downpipe at the Supreme Court and I was able to afford His Excellency ocular demonstration. That downpipe remained broken until 23rd August, thereby proving the laxity of the sanitary inspectors whose duty it was, we were informed, by the President, to inspect such buildings once a month. No distinction should be drawn between Government and private property, and I would like to have an assurance from you as Head of the Sanitary Department that it is the duty of Sanitary Inspectors to report any contraventions of the Ordinance found in Government buildings in the same way as private property. If I get such an assurance from you, I am satisfied. If I do not, then you are not carrying out the instructions of His Excellency.

The PRESIDENT—The inspectors report all nuisances in Government buildings. The work is carried out departmentally. We do not serve a notice on ourselves.

Mr. HOOPER—You have got to do it.

The PRESIDENT—It would be a waste of paper.

Mr. HOOPER—You don't serve a legal notice?

The PRESIDENT—No.

Mr. HOOPER—Then you do not carry out what your predecessor stated as to monthly visits.

The PRESIDENT—There is a difference between inspection and serving a written notice. The inspectors make the inspection but they do not serve notices. They report.

Mr. HOOPER—Verbally, do you mean?

The PRESIDENT—In writing—On a piece of paper.

Hon. Mr. SLADE—I don't see why we should have all this talking. It is clear that on the presentation of the report the repairs will be carried out. It seems to me that is all that is necessary.

Mr. HOOPER—He says they do not make a report.

The PRESIDENT—They do not issue a legal notice on a big piece of paper.

Mr. HOOPER—I don't care whether the paper is large or small.

The PRESIDENT—They make a report.

Mr. HOOPER—To whom?

The PRESIDENT—To the particular officer whose department it is.

Mr. HOOPER—To the various departments?

The PRESIDENT—It depends on the particular question.

Mr. HOOPER—Not to a particular building?

The PRESIDENT—The particular building and the particular nuisance.

Mr. HOOPER—Supposing this downpipe, of which I spoke, was reported to you by an inspector—

The PRESIDENT—It would be reported to the Government officer in charge of that department—the Director of Public Works or his assistant.

Mr. HOOPER—It is not very satisfactory.

BREEDING OF MOSQUITOES.

A byelaw for the prevention of the breeding of anopheles mosquitoes was forwarded. It provided that when the larvae of mosquitoes are found on any premises the Board may, on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health or the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, give notice to the owner or occupier of such premises to take such steps as the Board may prescribe for the prevention of the breeding of such mosquitoes.

Mr. SLADE minuted—I agree with the byelaw as the Crown Solicitor states that the Board has at present no power to deal with this matter.

Mr. SHELTON HOOPER—I do not consider any further byelaws on this subject are necessary. The powers the Board possess under section 26 dealing with nuisances Nos. 4, 6, 8 and 13 are quite sufficient.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—I concur with the byelaw. In the matter of malaria we know exactly what to do and how to do it. It would stultify members of the Board if under such circumstances they took no action. What I object to is costly ill-directed experiments based on insufficient data or none at all, such as the greater part of the anti-plague measures adopted in the past.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—I think the Board has sufficient power to deal with endemic and epidemic diseases without making any more byelaws.

The proposed byelaw was adopted, Mr. Hooper dissenting.

PLAGUE PROCEDURE.

The procedure to be adopted in cases of plague, together with directions for cleansing plague-infected houses, were submitted.

Mr. HOOPER minuted—Who is to carry out these instructions? They are not addressed to any one.

The PRESIDENT—They are addressed to the plague inspectors.

Mr. HOOPER—It does not say so.

DR. MACFARLANE'S LEAVE.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the leave of absence to be granted to Dr. Macfarlane. The Doctor has almost completed six years

service and the President recommended that he be granted leave of absence for twelve months—three months on full pay and nine months on half pay, with permission to apply to the Secretary of State for an extension of six months.

Mr. HOOPER minuted—As Dr. Clark will devote the whole of his time to the Sanitary Department the application should be granted.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—I take it this was sent to us merely as a matter of courtesy and for our information. We are not called upon to approve or disapprove. The granting of leave and pay leave rests entirely with the Government.

Mr. HOOPER desired to call attention to what he felt sure was a slip on the part of the President in not consulting the Board before recommending the granting of leave to Dr. Macfarlane, as was laid down in his instructions.

The PRESIDENT explained that he had to arrange about Dr. Clark.

Mr. HOOPER—I don't know what you had to do. I think you recognise it was your duty to consult the Board before recommending the Government to grant leave in this instance?

The PRESIDENT—It was a slip. I wanted to know if Dr. Clark's time would be available before I did so.

Mr. HOOPER added that he was a party to accepting the instructions as he naturally thought they would be carried out.

The PRESIDENT asked if he had any objection to the recommendation.

Mr. HOOPER—You admit it was a slip. You knew you were disregarding these instructions. The PRESIDENT smiled.

Mr. HOOPER—I don't look on it lightly.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the week ending 23rd September showed that the death rate for the British and foreign community was 15.8 as compared with 20.5 for the corresponding week of last year and for the Chinese community it was 31.5 as compared with 20.8 in the corresponding week of last year or 3.3 for the whole Colony as against 20.3 last year.

RAT DESTRUCTION.

A letter from the Government forwarding a minute by His Excellency relative to rat destruction was placed before members. In the covering letter from the Colonial Secretary Mr. May said that His Excellency would be glad to learn whether it was considered that the poisoning of rats on a large scale was advisable or desirable.

The Governor's minute addressed to the Colonial Secretary was as follows: As I have hinted in many previous minutes I am heartily in accord with the policy of exterminating rats and I considered that this was the crux of the problem long before the researches of the recent Indian Plague Commission demonstrated so conclusively that *P. Cheopis* was practically the sole agent in plague infection. We have enquired from India what they considered to be the best poison and what precautions they have found to be useful to adopt to prevent children and domestic animals from being injured by the poison, and when we receive their report the Sanitary Department will have high authority to guide them in their methods of conducting the campaign. It will be for them to decide the class of poison to be used and the method in which it should be used so as to avoid danger. It will also be for them to decide at what time it would be best to issue the poison and begin the campaign. The two best periods are undoubtedly (a) just before the plague season, and (b) just before and during the breeding season. The Bacteriologist could inform the Board from his examination what is the breeding season, i.e., when most pregnant females are caught and whether that season coincides with the period of the outbreak of the annual epidemic. But the Board must not lose sight of using every effort to prevent the ingress of rats to domestic buildings (e.g. by filling up rat holes, placing grating over pipes, etc.). The Principal Civil Medical Officer observes (a) that rats here have not the same domestic habits as they have in England—our present model, however, is India, not England, and rats are at least as domestic here as in India; (b) that good fatted rats avoid plague rats—that is probably true, but the argument is that the presence of a rat scares rats away even if the cat does not catch them; if rats are scared out of domestic dwellings into the streets

and sewers the carcasses of those which die of plague and the fleas escaping from them will be carried away and will not spread plague among the human population; (c) that cats occasionally contract plague, but he adds (d) that cat fleas do not transmit the disease, so that it matters little even if a few cats do contract plague. This question should be again and without undue delay brought before the Sanitary Board in order to invite their opinion as to the advisability of instituting a period of general poisoning and the methods to be adopted to minimise danger. I am confident that, should the Board concur in the views I have expressed, the Chinese members and the Registrar General will do their utmost to obtain the hearty co-operation of the Chinese of all classes in the scheme decided on and that the Tung Wa Hospital will assist in every way in its power. Poisoning should be limited to a short period and the people should be warned and be especially exhorted not to throw away any scraps of food, etc., during that period in order that rats may be forced to eat the poisoned bait.

Attached to the minute were reports on rat destruction which Mr. Messer had summarised from various medical journals.

Colonel REID minuted—The distribution of poison such as phosphorous (the effects of which on the human system may not be immediately apparent) in quantities sufficient to make an appreciable reduction in the number of rats will require the greatest care and the constant supervision of each house treated.

Mr. HOOPER—I am in favour of trying the experiment this winter, but the greatest care must be exercised in the distribution of the poison and in the collection and destruction of the house refuse where the poison may have been laid. Otherwise utensils in which food is prepared may get contaminated and human lives lost.

The REGISTRAR GENERAL—The poison should be in doses not big enough to kill a child. At the end of the poisoning period care should be taken to collect the doses not eaten by rats or they will sooner or later get into children's mouths. The doses I have seen are just what a child naturally would put in its mouth.

Mr. HOOPER—I think my minute indicates all I have to say, I am quite sure the Sanitary Department, which includes the Medical Officer of Health, will bear in mind the great danger to human life if this is promiscuously distributed, more particularly with regard to refuse in which animals and possibly the Chinese in the lower parts of the town forage for food and thereby endanger their lives. I think we can leave it to the Sanitary Department under the guidance of the Medical Officer of Health.

The PRESIDENT—It might be interesting to you to know that in 1902-03, \$2,981 were spent on rat poisoning, and from 1903 to 1907, \$689. All that poison has been used and we have not had any accidents. I would also draw your attention to the fact that in the Punjab they have used 32 tons of rat poisoning.

Mr. HOOPER—For all India.

The PRESIDENT—In the Punjab only. So far reports from India do not mention that any danger has occurred to children. Of course, they say precautions must be taken. If they used 32 tons in one year in the Punjab, I think we can safely use 400 lbs in Hongkong.

The REGISTRAR GENERAL—I cannot help regarding the matter as a little bit serious. I am anxious to do everything I can to further the destruction of rats, but at the same time, if there is a danger let us face it and see what steps we can take to provide against it.

The PRESIDENT—Certainly we want to face the danger, but, on the other hand, what is the amount of danger to the amount of good it may do.

The REGISTRAR GENERAL—I am not opposing the distribution of poison at all. The question I asked was whether one or more pellets was dangerous to a child, and what precaution would be taken to clear up these things after the period of poisoning had elapsed. I understood you to say, Mr. President, that the idea of this poisoning was to try to concentrate it as far as possible in a very short time so as to give the rat population a severe blow and afterwards to trust to traps to keep the number down. If that is so, my suggestion is that some care should be taken after completion of the work or

fortnight to send round and ask people to give up what they had left of the poison.

The PRESIDENT—The idea is to distribute it just before the Chinese new year so that it will all be removed in the general cleaning up which takes place then.

Mr. HOOPER—I think the Chinese should have their attention called to the dangerous nature of the poison.

The PRESIDENT—Certainly, but we must not go too far or else they will throw the pellets away.

Mr. HOOPER—Their attention should be called so that they may not think they have a new article of diet.

The PRESIDENT—I don't think the Chinese are fools.

The VICE PRESIDENT—I think we must place some reliance on the common sense of the people when they are told that the poison is distributed for the purpose of destroying rats.

The PRESIDENT—I move that the Sanitary Board deem it advisable that a general poisoning should take place, and that the period be sometime before the Chinese new year so that the general cleaning up can follow. I think we can rely on this department, on the Registrar-General and on the Chinese to assist us.

The motion was agreed to.

THE BOARDING HOUSE RUNNER.

"A STANDING NUISANCE."

Before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Magistracy, on Oct 13th, the watchman of the Hongkong Canton and Macao Co's steamer "Fatahan" was summoned for assaulting a boarding house runner.

Defendant pleaded guilty, but stated that he had cause to assault the complainant as boarding house runners were a great nuisance and he was instructed by the captain to keep them off the ship.

Complainant told the Court he was a shop coolie in the Yik Sang boarding house. On the morning of the 8th instant he went on board the s.s. "Fatahan" to look after some luggage. Defendant spoke to him in a language which witness did not understand and then struck him.

Defendant said he spoke in Chinese, and the complainant understood him perfectly.

His Worship asked Captain Lloyd if he had anything to say.

Captain Lloyd said these boarding house runners seemed to think they had the right to take possession of the ship when they boarded her. It was entirely against the policy of the Company to use any violence at all to these people, and the runners traded on it. They were a standing nuisance, and the one before the Court was making the most of his case.

His Worship imposed a nominal penalty of \$2, the alternative being seven days' imprisonment.

ALLEGED FORGED SIGNATURE.

At the Magistracy on Oct. 14th before Mr. J. R. Wood, Chui Chui Tong, a stavedore in the employ of Messrs Dodwell and Co., who was arrested on a warrant by Detective Sergeant Watt, was charged with obtaining sums amounting to \$500 by signing cheques in the name of Mr. M. Smith of the firm mentioned. Defendant, after obtaining this money, absconded about a month ago, but returned within the last few days and was arrested on Tuesday evening.

His Worship said he wished to be satisfied on the point as to whether this action was taken with a view to prosecute the defendant as a forger, or with a view to get him put in jail to recover a debt.

Mr. Beavis (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), who appeared for the prosecution, said he was not acquainted with the facts of the case, and appeared to ask for a remand. He put it to his Worship, however, that the fact of the information having being sworn before Mr. Kemp should be sufficient to satisfy the Court on the point.

The remand was granted, bail being fixed in the sum of \$1,000.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BLIND HOME.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

DEAR SIR,—Now that the subscription for the Blind Home has been closed, it is my heart-felt desire to express my thanks, through the columns of your valuable paper, to all the Friends of our Home, who have so kindly remembered the Blind in their present need.

At the same time I beg to acknowledge with thanks the generous gift of \$1,000 (one thousand dollars) handed to me by the Hon. Registrar-General, Mr. E. A. Irving, on behalf of the Committee appointed to consider the distribution of the relief for the losses caused by the recent typhoon. As all the members of that Committee, except Mr. Irving, are Chinese, I do feel that this shows a kind appreciation on the part of the Chinese Community of the work done by our Home.

Thanking you very much for allowing me so much space in your paper,—I am, Sir, Yours sincerely,

AGATHA VON SEELHORST.

12, Bonham Road, Oct. 12, 1908.

KULANGSU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council, held at the Board Room, on the 22nd September 1908.

Present:—Messrs. W. H. Wallace (Chairman), C. A. V. Bowra, J. S. Fenwick, W. Kruse, S. Okuyama, W. Wilson, the Health Officer, and the Secretary.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

NO MORE LIQUOR LICENSES.

An application was received for a license for the premises formerly known as the Japanese store, situated between the Chinese Post Office and Whitfield's corner, for selling liquor on the occasion of the visit to Amoy of the American Fleet. The applicant was informed that the Council would not license any fresh premises for the sale of intoxicating liquors during the visit of the Fleet to Amoy.

A COMPLAINT.

A letter was read from the Commissioner of Customs complaining of the manner in which Mr. Lim Kui Siong is carrying on certain building operations near the Customs Property, Santa Elisabeth. The Works Committee will view the place and take the necessary action in the matter.

POLICE RETURNS.

The Superintendent of Police reported that the following cases had been dealt with at the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—Summonses—assault 1; allowing pigs and cattle to stray 1; throwing rubbish into the public drains 1; debt 2; breach of bye-law 15 (disorderly house) 2; kidnapping 1; breach of sampan regulations 2. Summary arrests—creating a disturbance etc., 4; breach of new opium regulations 9; carrying arms 2.

SUICIDE OF A SHANGHAI DENTIST

Dr. James Ward Hall, a well-known dentist of Shanghai, committed suicide last week by shooting himself with a revolver. Dr. Ward Hall was one of the oldest American residents of Shanghai and one who has been a prominent and most popular figure in Shanghai during the past thirty years. He was a native of Piqua, Ohio, and came to Shanghai in 1879 to enter into partnership with Dr. Winn, with whom he was associated until 1882. Since then he has carried on the business of dental surgeon on his own account and had built up one of the most successful practices in Shanghai. About three months ago he was bitten by a dog which was subsequently found to be suffering from rabies and was accordingly destroyed. This fact seems to have preyed on Dr. Ward Hall's mind to such an extent that he believed he was suffering from hydrophobia. He arose from his bed at 4 a.m. last Wednesday, telling his wife that he was going to telephone for his doctor. He appears to have locked himself in his office and put an end to his life with a revolver.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

October 9th.

I.M. CUSTOMS TRAINING COLLEGE.

Three students of the Ellis Kadoorie Canton College are amongst the successful Canton candidates who have passed the preliminary examination for admittance in'to the Customs Training College at Peking.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY COMPANY.

In my previous correspondence I reported that the merchants and people of Canton and Fatahan were vigorously protesting against the increase of railway fares and threatening to boycott the Fatahan line of the Company should they refuse to revert to the old scale of fares. Certain Directors of the Company, finding that the railway receipts have been daily decreasing, circulated yesterday, an express informing the shareholders that a meeting will be held this week to request the President and Vice-President to restore the old scale of fares so as to induce all travellers to patronise the railway again. They also appeal to the shareholders to obtain more protection for the railway stations which have been the object of frequent attack by robbers of late.

THE CAUSE OF ANTI-MISSIONARY RIOTS.

The following is the gist of a dispatch received by Viceroy Chang from the Central Government:—

With reference to litigation between Christian and non-Christian subjects we have repeatedly instructed the officials of all the provinces to decide such cases justly and impartially so as to avoid trouble. In going through the official records of cases relating to the killing of missionaries and the destruction of their churches and other property we find that all such cases had their origin in long standing and unsettled litigation between Christian and non-Christian subjects, or in the failure of the officials to decide such cases in accordance with Treaty regulations. Thus was animosity engendered and promoted, resulting finally in a riot, the killing of missionaries and the destruction of their property. But, according to treaty regulations, missionaries are not allowed to interfere in litigation between Christian and non-Christian Chinese subjects. A clause to this effect was inserted in one of the treaties long ago. The object of that clause was not only to avoid international disputes but to diminish the number of actions between Christians and non-Christians. We hereby instruct you to notify all the officials in your Province that in future they must act strictly in accordance both the Treaty regulations in litigation between Christian and non-Christian subjects and, further, that they must not permit any outside people to interfere in cases that come before the courts. All cases must be judged impartially and the increase of litigation will thus be prevented.

DEPARTURE OF AN OFFICIAL.

Taotai Wan Tsung Yao will leave Canton on the 12th instant and proceed to Tibet to take up his new position as Minister.

October 12th.

IMPERIAL BIRTHDAY EDICT.

The following is a translation of an Imperial Birthday Edict:—

"This Edict is issued to inform the officials and the people that I, Emperor, have received an Edict from Her Majesty the Empress Dowager stating that the Board of Rites have memorialised Her Majesty that they are making preparations for royal banquets and have drawn up a list of the ceremonies for the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday which occurs on the 10th day of the 10th moon. Her Majesty has directed me to announce that it is her desire not to have any banquets and Her Majesty has enjoined me to inform all the Royal Princes and Princesses, all Imperial relations and the wives of high officials residing outside of Peking only to call on Her Majesty and make obeisance according to (Ta Ching) Law and Custom on her birthday."

This Edict has been issued on account of the recent disasters, floods, typhoons, epidemics &c. Her Majesty wishes her subjects to reserve their spare money for charitable purposes.

SACRIFICE TO THE SPIRITS OF A DECEASED OFFICIAL.

Sometime ago I reported to you that Taotai Yew Sew Shu died in Loong Chow, Kwang-se on the 8th of August last.

Yesterday a tablet bearing the name of the deceased official was placed in the Sam Yuen Koong (Temple of Nobility and Genius).

His Excellency Viceroy Chang and all the officials in Canton attended the sacrificial ceremony. There was a large gathering representing the gentry, merchant guilds, local press, charitable institutions, colleges and schools. It is reported that Viceroy Chang actually shed tears when he knelt down to offer sacrifice.

Yew Taotai's body was recently conveyed to Canton, hence the ceremony. This official was both a capable and a popular man.

The Viceroy consoled his son after the ceremony and promised him his support. He then left the Temple.

OFFICIAL MATTERS.

The Board of Posts and Communications has informed the Viceroy that, owing to the corruption prevailing in the Land Purchasing Bureaux of all the Railway concerns in the different Provinces, they will in future appoint officials from Peking to superintend those Bureaux.

The Board of War in Peking has instructed the Military Authorities to notify the public that in future Military students will be classified as follows:—Those holding diplomas of Western countries will be classified first class; Japanese diplomas second class, and Chinese diplomas third class.

AN OTHER OUTBREAK IN KWANGSI.

News has reached Canton that a large guard boat was dispatched to convey 4,000 taels revenue from Tai Wong Kong to Pak Ma. When the boat reached Tung Yip the soldiers of the guardboat mutinied, killed several officers, took possession of all the money and fire arms and joined the rebels. It is reported that they are now plundering all the villages and towns in that vicinity. The Magistrate of Ping Kwai City, near Tung Yip, is powerless and has offered large rewards for the arrest of the ringleaders.

HIGH MILITARY OFFICIALS CASHIERED.

It is reported that H. E. Chang Wai Chi, Commander-in-Chief, cashiered four high Military officials for incompetence before he left for Wuchow.

NEW OPIUM SMOKING LICENSE.

The Superintendent of Police has given an order to a contractor here to make 20,000 wooden licenses for Canton. The size of the new license is 10 inches long 8 inches wide and $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch thick. On the obverse will be written the name of the licensee, his address and the quantity of opium consumed daily. The reverse side will bear the opium regulations which will be far more stringent than those on the present paper license. One of the rules states that opium smokers will go to purchase opium are not permitted to wrap their licenses up with handkerchief nor will they be allowed to hide them under their clothes. They must expose their licenses, so that every body might see them. If the police should find anyone concealing the license, a fine of \$5 will be imposed for the first offence, the amount of the fine will be increased for every subsequent offence.

October, 13th.

I.M. CUSTOMS TRAINING COLLEGE—SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES DISAPPOINTED.

It is reported that three of the successful candidates who passed the examination for admittance in the I. M. Customs Training College in Peking failed to pass the health examination last week. Fung Kwok Fook, one of the candidates who came out fourth in the examination, called on the Commissioner of Customs here the other day and entreated him not to debar him from entering the college on account of his having failed in the health examination. He told the Commissioner that his parents were so pleased when they heard that he was amongst the successful candidates that they have already made all the necessary preparations for him to proceed to Peking and that the news of his having failed to pass the health examination, which would prevent him from being admitted into the college, had caused

great disappointment to his parents who, he said had spent a good deal of money for his education. Mr. King was so much impressed with the lad's earnestness that he gave him a letter to go the I.M. Customs doctor to be re-examined. Would it not be better to hold the health examination first?

TWENTY-ONE PEASANT GIRLS KIDNAPPED.

The gentry of Kin Ping City in the Shin Hing Prefecture wrote a letter to the Canton Press Guild stating that twenty-one peasant girls of the Tai Tin Village near Kin-Ping City were kidnapped by robbers about three weeks ago while they were picking bamboo shoots and mulberry leaves a short distance from the village. Although rigid searches have been made by the villagers, up to the present time no traces have been found indicating their whereabouts. The military officers in a station situated near the village said they were powerless, having no means to pursue the robbers. It is said that the gentry have petitioned the Viceroy on the subject.

ANOTHER FLOOD.

Serious disasters have been caused by the renewed flooding of the districts bordering on the West River. Many officials have been dispatched by the Viceroy to the distressed districts to render assistance in places where dykes have been broken by the flood. One of the Charitable Institutions here has purchased 15,000 gunny bags for reinforcing the dykes and have engaged the steam launch "Ohung Hing" to convey them to the distressed districts.

OFFICIAL MATTERS.

The Board of Revenue in Peking has requested the local Authorities to render a minute statement of all the miscellaneous revenues collected and disbursed. The Board has also instructed Viceroy Chang to prohibit the local banks from issuing demand bank bills or bank notes which, they say, is impeding the circulation of the Government notes.

The Board of War has directed the Local Military Authorities to forward all dispatches and correspondence to them through the Imperial Post Office next year. In the meantime they are requested to gradually diminish the number of couriers now employed for this service.

GAMBLING IN THE POLICE COMPOUND.

Yesterday the Police Officer of No. 12 station called on the Chief Superintendent of Police. His three chair coolies, who were waiting in the Police compound, commenced to play cards. A police officer of the head station, happening to pass by, ordered them to be arrested for having the audacity to gamble in the Police station. The case was immediately tried by the said Police Officer who sentenced each coolie to 15 days' imprisonment or in the alternative to 200 blows. The coolies begged for mercy and the sentence was commuted to a fine of \$1 each.

THE AMERICAN FLEET.

The American Fleet were under orders to leave Manila at six o'clock on Friday evening last for Japan and China. The ships are to arrive at Yokohama on October 17 and will remain there one week, leaving October 24. The second squadron will go to Amoy reaching there October 29. The first squadron will return to Manila, October 31. After a stay of six days at Amoy the second squadron will also come back arriving November 7. The "Louisiana" will leave the second squadron after the visit to Amoy and will put in to Hongkong, where Rear-Admiral Emery will haul down his flag. The "Louisiana" will then sail for Manila. The battleship will begin target practice as soon as they arrive from their trip north.

The reception to be given by the citizens of Manila to the battleship fleet will be from December 1 to 5. This time has been allotted to the function by the Navy Department. During that time but twelve of the sixteen ships will be in the harbour. The battleships Wisconsin, Illinois, Kearsarge and Kentucky, the smallest vessels of the fleet, will leave the fleet December 1 and will precede it to Singapore. The other vessels will leave December 5.

THE DALAI LAMA.

A PERSONAL INTERVIEW.

A correspondent who has lately arrived in Shanghai from travelling in Shansi has given to the *N. C. Daily News* the following interesting details of a private interview, which he was privileged to have with the Dalai Lama, while the latter was yet staying at the W'utaishan. Of the enormous retinue of lamas and Tibetan guards with which the Dalai Lama was yet surrounded—a retinue, says our correspondent, on the support of which the Chinese Government is reported to have allowed that Buddhist Pontiff Tls. 100,000 a month—other writers have given descriptions already. But it is worth noticing that only Tibetans (and an occasional privileged visitor) were admitted to the interior of the principal lamasery on the P'usating which was the Dalai Lama's residence. The Chinese guard of honour appointed by Peking was kept strictly outside the lamasery and it was noticeable that the Chinese soldiers and their officers were the object of great dislike to the Tibetans and of continual gratuitous insults.

On the introduction of his visitor the Dalai Lama was discovered seated on a low stool in the middle of a large hall. The Chief Pontiff is of slight, somewhat slender build, lighter in colour than the eastern Tibetans who are in general deeply bronzed. His face, which was curiously expressionless even when he was deep in conversation, is slightly marked with small-pox. His age has been incorrectly reported as about twenty. In reality the Dalai Lama was born in the year in which the Emperor Kuang Hsu came to the throne, which would make him about thirty-four years old allowing for the difference of Chinese reckoning. He was dressed in a yellow silk robe trimmed with deep, blue cuffs.

The great man did not, of course, rise from his seat, and throughout the interview, which was conducted through an interpreter in Chinese and Tibetan, for the Dalai Lama is ignorant of the former language, the visitor remained standing. But the Dalai Lama was altogether gracious. The interview began with the orthodox Tibetan salutation: the visitor carries in his hands a k'a-tag, or long scarf, which as he stands before the Pontiff he allows to unroll. Then the scarf is taken up by an attendant and given to the Pontiff, who at the close of the interview gave in exchange a scarf of his own. This was a special mark of favour. The scarf was laid across the visitor's shoulders and when he left the presence it was impressed upon him that he must on no account remove his decoration till he was far from the lamasery.

The Dalai Lama spoke of the English people. He asked for news from the outside world and expressed gratification at the receipt of a complimentary message. Also, and the point is worth noting, he showed considerable and spontaneous friendliness in speaking of Great Britain and of her relations with Tibet. The interview lasted a quarter of an hour. Then the visitor departed through long lines of guards and spectators and followed by an escort bearing the presents received from the Dalai Lama. He could not help noticing that he was treated thenceforward with marked respect throughout the district. It is not every body that is admitted to converse with Huo-fu-Ling Buddha.

According to our correspondent the reports of the Dalai Lama's haughty delay to go to Peking are probably imaginary. Apart from the fact that he could not have disobeyed an order from the suzerain who, whatever the Dalai Lama may be in Tibet, is a vastly greater person than he in China, the Chinese Government might easily have fetched him up to Peking, had it wished to do so, by the simple expedient of cutting off supplies. Is it not a more likely suggestion that the Government, which is known to be most anxious to reorganize Tibet on Chinese lines, preferred to postpone its discussions with the Dalai Lama until its plans could be presented to him in a more developed condition? At least this view would help to explain, among other things, the animosity shown by Tibetans towards the harmless Chinese guard of honour at W'utaishan.

THE NORTH CHINA INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

The report for presentation at the fifth ordinary general meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Offices of the Company, No. 10, The Bund, Shanghai, on Tuesday, the 20th inst. states:—

The Directors beg to submit, for the information of shareholders, the annexed duly audited statement of the Company's accounts to the 30th June 1908.

1907.—The Balance at credit of this account is Tals 204,097.00, and after deducting an interim dividend of 7½ per cent. aggregating Tals. 30,252.10, paid on 1st May last, there remains a sum of Tals 173,844.90, which the Directors recommend should be appropriated in the following manner:—

A final dividend of 7½ per cent. on the paid-up capital.

A bonus of 15 per cent. upon contributory Premiums.

Tals 50,000.00 transferred to silver reserve, bringing that fund up to Tals 150,000.00.

And the balance to be transferred to Underwriting Reserve account, closing the account for 1907.

1908.—The balance at credit of Working account to 30th June amounts to Tals 160,512.05.

Directors.—In accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association the Directors all retire but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Audit.—The Accounts have been audited by Messrs. Wingrove and Hayter, who again tender their services to the shareholders.

By Order of the Court of Directors.

H. G. SIMMS,
Secretary.

Shanghai, 15th September, 1908.

BALANCE SHEET, 30th June, 1908.

	Tals	£	s.	d.
To capital account:—10,000 shares at £5 = £50,000 at 2-5½	410,256.41	50,000	0	0
To sterling reserve fund	1,025,641.03	126,000	0	0
To silver reserve fund	100,000.00	12,187	10	0
To underwriting reserve account	343,747.65	37,019	4	11
To exchange and investment fluctuation account	118,276.92	14,415	0	0
To working account 1907:—				
amount brought forward				
from below Tls. 204,097.00				
Deduct:—				
interim dividend Tls. 30,252.10				
	173,844.90	21,187	6	11
To working account 1908:—				
Amount brought forward from below	160,512.05	19,562	8	2
To sundry creditors	5,560.91	677	14	8
(Ex. 2-5½ per tael) Tals	2,297,839.73	£280,049	4	8
	Tals	£	s.	d.
By cash on current and deposit accounts in Shanghai	154,562.50	18,837	6	1
By Chinese Imperial Govt. Loan of 1896 (E. Lane)	12,500.00	1,523	8	9
By Shanghai Municipal Loans	95,000.00	11,578	2	6
By Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.'s 5 per cent. debts	7,000.00	853	2	6
By Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.'s 6 per cent. debts	69,700.00	8,494	13	9
By Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.'s 5 per cent. debentures	9,600.00	1,170	0	0
By Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.'s 6 per cent. debentures	20,000.00	2,437	10	0
By Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co., Ltd.'s 6 per cent. debts	10,000.00	1,218	15	0
By Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co., Limited	800.00	97	10	0
By mortgages on property in Shanghai	130,000.00	15,842	15	0
By Japanese Government 5 per cent. yen loan of 1895	11,077.11	1,350	0	5
By Japanese Government 4 per cent. sterling loan of 1899	71,984.78	8,772	15	7

By London branch—	
balance viz:—	
London freehold premises	38,307 3 7
Cash at bankers	6,525 3 0
British Government securities	21,281 4 8
Indian Government securities	18,816 4 5
Colonial Government securities	33,617 16 11
Foreign Government loans	26,834 19 0
English railway securities	5,214 11 1
Colonial railway securities	26,501 11 0
Chinese railway loans	12,390 0 0
Pennsylvania Railroad Co. 4 per cent. mort. bonds	954 19 4
Furniture accounts—London and Manchester	163 0 0
Premia outstanding, bills receivable, policy stamps and drafts in course of collections	5,731 3 9
	£196,336 16 9

Less—Due to sundries	381 0 6
	1,607,842.56
By balances at branches	62,930.13
By furnitures at head office and branches	1,729.05
By sundry debtors	33,116.74
	2,297,839.87
(Ex. 2-5½ per tael) Tals	2,297,839.87
	£280,049 4 8

WORKING ACCOUNT 1907, 30th June 1908.

Dr.	Tals.
To net premia	577,888.33
To interest	77,903.43
To transfer and certificate fees	81.00
	Tals. 654,972.75
Dr.	Tals.
By commissions and charges at head office, branches and agencies	157,163.36
By directors' and auditors' fees	5,650.00
By income tax	11,058.60
By depreciation furniture account	158.66
By losses and claims	276,817.13
By balance carried forward	204,097.00
	Tals. 654,972.75

WORKING ACCOUNT 1908, 30th June 1908.

Dr.	Tals.
To net premia	274,939.79
To interest	42,750.25
To transfer and certificate fees	21.00
	Tals. 317,711.04
Cr.	Tals.
By commissions and charges at head office, branches and agencies	85,965.17
By directors' and auditors' fees	3,200.00
By income tax	3,157.50
By losses and claims	65,576.82
By balance carried forward	160,512.05
	Tals. 317,711.04

WITHDRAWAL OF JAPANESE TROOPS FROM NORTH CHINA.

As to the withdrawal of the bulk of the Japanese garrison in North China in view of conditions there, we hear, says the *Japan Gazette*, that it will be carried into effect upon Imperial sanction being given. Germany's initiative for the total evacuation a few years ago was considered by other Powers to be premature. Japan, however, now withdraws the greater part of her garrison without reference to other Powers. It is an outcome of the peace and retrenchment policy of the Katsura Cabinet of which, we believe, not a few other proofs are forthcoming. It will be seen with interest how China and other Powers receive Japan's action. A Tokyo news agency reports that the existing Japanese garrison in North China consists of seven companies of infantry and a small body of cavalry under a Lieutenant. Four companies of infantry and all the cavalry are to be withdrawn shortly, according to the recent ministerial decision.

THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD "TYPHOON."

The similarity of the Japanese word *taifu* in sound to the English *typhoon*, which has the same meaning, is generally considered to indicate fairly obviously that both words have common origin in the Chinese *taifeng* (great wind), especially when the name is applied only to certain meteorological phenomena peculiar to Eastern waters. In these circumstances, says the *Japan Chronicle*, it is rather surprising to find that lexicographers are divided on this question, many of them maintaining that *typhoon* is derived, through the Latin *typho*, from the Greek *typhoon*, a violent whirlwind,—so called because it was held to be the work of Typhon, a god struck with lightning by Jupiter and buried under Mount Etna. The god was often held to typify a violent wind. Going farther back, we find Typhon in Egyptian mythology as the God of Evil. That the English word is derived from the Greek, through the Latin *typhon*, seems clearly established, because the word is found with slight modifications in all the languages derived from Latin. The fact that the word *typhon*, having exactly the same meaning as the Chinese word of the same sound, existed in Western languages before any known communication was established with China and can even be traced back to Egyptian mythology, appears to be more than a coincidence, though it is regarded as such by some authorities.

WATER RETURN.

Level and Storage of water in Reservoirs on the 1st October City and Hill District Water Works.

	LEVEL.	
	1907.	1908.
	Above overflow.	Above overflow.
Tytam	2 ft. 6½ in.	2 ft. 7½ in.
Tytam Bywash... 2 ft. 3 in.		2 ft. 8 in.
Tytam Interme- diate	0 ft. 1 in.	2 ft. 6½ in.
Pokfulum	1 ft. 9 in.	2 ft. 0 in.
Wongnaichung... 2 ft. 0 in.		2 ft. 0 in.

	STORAGE GALLONS.	
	1907.	1908.
Tytam	407,000,000	407,000,000
Tytam Bywash... 25,908,000		26,301,000
Tytam Intermediate 196,389,000		210,390,000
Pokfulum	69,860,000	70,409,000
Wongnaichung ... 33,260,000		33,260,000
Total	732,417,000	747,340,000

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

	1907.	1908.
Consumption... 145,722,000		144,106,000 gallons
Estimated population	205,560	207,360

Consumption per head per day 23.6 23.1 gallons
Constant supply during September in both years. The return of Consumption is subject to error owing to the difficulty of accurate measurement whilst the extension works at Albany Filter Beds are in progress.

KOWLOON WATER WORKS.

	LEVEL.	
	1907.	1908.
Kowloon Gravitation	Below overflow	
Reservoir	30 ft. 0 in.	20 ft. 0 in.
	STORAGE GALLONS.	
	1907.	1908.
Kowloon Gravitation		
Reservoir	112,000,000	176,700,000

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

	1907.	1908.
Consumption ... 23,611,000		28,691,000 gallons
Estimated population	79,700	84,500

Consumption per head per day 9.0 11.3 gallons
The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.
Public Works Department.

W. CHATHAM.
Water Authority.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 17th October.—The prices are further declining holders being firm.

Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$4.90	to	\$4.95
" Round, Good quality ..	4.95	to	5.00
" Long	5.05	to	5.10
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	4.30	to	4.35
" Garden, " No. 1 ..	4.60	to	4.70
" White	4.80	to	4.9
" Fine Cargo	5.10	to	5.60

OPIMUM.

HONGKONG, October 14th

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1250	1260 per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1270	1280 do.
Malwa Older	\$1290	1300 do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1310	1320 do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$880	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$930	do.
Patna New	\$1217½	per chest.
Patna Old	—	do.
Benares New	\$1140	do.
Benares Old	\$1140	do.

HONGKONG, Oct. 15th.—Since the 2nd instant, movements in the various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Malwa Patna Benares Persian

Stocks on the 17th Sept., 1908	2,042	1,519	1,253	1,062
Sept. 20th Imports per Delta ..	—	—	25	—
Oct. 2nd " Beaulieu ..	—	—	50	—
" 3rd " Katsang ..	—	—	25	—
" 9th " Kin Sang ..	—	205	70	—
" 13th " Polyne ..	—	200	—	—
	2,042	2,524	1,455	1,062

Less Exports to Shanghai ..	202	230	100	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight ..	249	452	194	221

Estimated Stocks this day .. 1,591 1,842 1,161 841

Bengal.—There has been less doing during the period under review as bargains in the hands of the Chinese are rather large. We quote Patna at \$1215, and New and Old Benares at \$1135.

Malwa.—The high rates ruling in Shanghai from new drug have not been obtainable here, consequently there has been no business in this description. A few lots of 2 3 years drug have changed hands at \$1325.30.

Persian.—In sympathy with the rise in all descriptions of drug prices have advanced to \$940, for superior quality.

COAL.

HONGKONG, October 16th.—The arrivals of coal since the 1st inst. amounted to only 11,800 tons of Japanese. The only coal expected is 28,100 tons of Japan coal. There have been no sales of any importance in the interval. Quotations according to Messrs. Hughes and Hough's circular are as follows:—

Cardiff	\$—	to	\$—	ex-ship, nominal.
Australian	\$12.00	ex-ship, nominal.		
Yubari Lump	\$12.00	ex-ship, nominal.		
Miki Lump	\$10.50	to	\$11.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Moji Lump	\$7.75	to	\$9.50	ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened	\$8.00	to	\$8.00	ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump	\$8.75	to	\$9.00	ex-ship, sellers.
Labuan Lump	\$9.00	ex-ship sellers,		

YARN.

HONGKONG.—Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated 16th October, states:—Business has greatly developed during the past fortnight, and settlements both for prompt and future delivery, have been on a large scale, and a further improvement of \$1 to \$2 has been established in values. As anticipated dealers have freely responded to the demands of holders, and in special cases of No. 10s and 12s as high as \$4 per bale has been paid. Buyers, after holding off for a considerable time appear to have accepted the situation whilst holders are anxious to push business while the demand lasts. The demand has been general and has run upon almost all counts, No. 10s, as usual, attracting most attention and forming nearly half of the total settlements. Buyers still appear in the market and a quiet but steady business is in course of transaction and looking at the attitude of both sellers and buyers the aspect of the market at the close points to the maintenance of the advance. Latest telegrams from Bombay make that market strong with a good business passing for Hongkong and Shanghai. Sales of the fortnight aggregate 11,220 bales, arrivals amount to 11,576 bales, unsold stock estimated at 5,000 and sold uncleared goods in second hands about 87,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—In the absence of the local demand these threads are now gradually but steadily finding an outlet at the Coast Ports. Japanese Yarn:—No business is reported. Raw Cotton:—Both Indian and China descriptions continue in fair demand, and about 150 bales, superfine Bengals are reported to have changed hands at \$23½ to \$24. In China kinds some 470 bales; Thoongchow have been sold at \$24 to \$29. Some small shipments of Indian cotton to Kobe are reported. Stocks Indian 410 bales and China 670 bales. Quotations are Indian \$22 to 24 and China \$26 to 28. Exchange on India has fluctuated slightly and closes to-day at Rs. 133 for T/T and Rs. 133½ for Post. On Shanghai 7½ and on Japan 8½. The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the week ended the 5th instant, viz:—Indian:—Market firm, total sales amounting to about 5,300 bales at an advance of one to two Taels. Unsold and uncleared stock about 28,000 bales. Japanese:—There has been little doing in these threads and owing to decreasing stocks have been firmer. Total sales about 700 bales on the basis of Tls. 94½ to 102 for No. 16s and Tls. 103½ to 108½ for No. 20s. Local:—No business from first hands.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 9th October, 1908, states:—The Manchester market is rather quieter and we have not heard of any business having been done for this market which is scarcely to be wondered at. In Liverpool the market is quieter and the price for Mid Orleans has fallen to 4.99d., but that for Egyptian is rather higher and is quoted 7½d. From New York also advices reports a lower market but at the close it appears to be rather steadier as while quotations, during the week for January and March delivery were 8.26 cents telegrams received to-day quote 8.35 cents for the former option. The same telegram gives the crop estimate on 1st October as 69.7, which is about the estimate expected, and it further says that the amount the bales ginned up to 25th September was 2,853,000. Latest telegrams also indicate that prices for Grey Goods are firmer. There is practically nothing to say about the local market as we have not heard of any business from first hands, the only movement we know is some dealings in American Goods among second hand holders. The Tientsin and Newchwang markets have taken most of the goods and during the past few days the Chefoo dealers have taken a fair quantity but it would appear their requirements are easily filled. Importers are still finding the greatest difficulty in moving spot cargo while the present conditions of the market at home prevent them from dealing at all largely for forward delivery. Clearance, while they might be better, show no signs of falling off and in spite of the unfavourable weather, have been maintained during the week. The market for Indian Yarn has been decidedly brisk and holders have been able to advance prices about one tael and a half per bale. Clearances are all that could be wished for. Business in Local yarns has

been confined to a few re-sales of bundles, dealers being chiefly occupied in clearing their late purchases. At the Yuen Fong Auction last week the general tone was not so good and inclined to be sluggish. Light Grey Shirtings kept steady as did Italians but the Heavy Shirtings were down and weak but Turkey Reds inclined to be firmer. In Woollens the only goods that showed any firmness were Camlets, the others all inclining to weakness. At to-day's Auction they were even worse and nearly all the prices were in favour of the buyer.

Messrs. Ilbert & Co.'s Report, dated Shanghai, October 8th, says.—Business has been curtailed this week by the unsettled state of the native money market; the failure of a large Chinese hong, engaged in many different kinds of business but not concerned in piece-goods or yarn, caused a feeling of insecurity which was not alleviated by subsequent financial operations between some foreign and Chinese banks. After two days of a rather strained state of affairs, during which native interest advanced to rates which interfered with ordinary trade, a quieter feeling prevails, and confidence is more or less restored. However sanguine and speculative Chinese dealers may have been in the past, all those who have weathered the bad times through which we have passed, are acting very cautiously, and confining their operations within safe limits; such factors as the great strike in England would a few years ago have created an active speculative demand here, but the experience of the last two years has been so unfortunate that but little attention has been paid to it so far. The quotation for cotton is now about 5d.; if the strike lasts for an extended period, the tendency will be towards still lower prices, and as long as there is no scarcity here, goods generally, whether English or American, will probably be affected by the course of the market for the raw material. There is said to be a large amount of money from Szechuan waiting to be invested in autumn supplies, so that, perhaps, between large clearances and curtailed supplies, we may look forward to a less depressing state of trade as the winter approaches. Last month's shipments from England, especially of dyed and printed goods, are at last showing signs of falling off, which should have a favourable influence on "spot" cargo. Exports from the United Kingdom during September to Hongkong and China are telegraphed privately as follows:

	In 1908	In 1907	In 1906
Plain Cottons ..	25.7	21.8	50.1
Dyed & Coloured Cottons ..	4.7	12.2	14.7
Printed Cottons ..	3.1	1.9	2.7
Yarn .. in bales	1,100	300	600

HONGKONG PRICES CURRENT.

HONGKONG, 16th October, 1908.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6lbs. piece \$ —	\$ —
7 lbs.	2.25 to 2.50
8.4 lbs.	3.15 to 4.15
10 lbs.	4.05 to 5.45
White Shirtings—54/56 reed ..	2.70 to 3.55
58/60 ..	3.55 to 5.95
64/66 ..	6.10 to 6.80
Fine ..	8.05 to 9.30
Book-folds ..	5.50 to 6.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.60 to 1.75
T-Cloths—8 lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y ..	2.00 to 2.20
7 lbs.	2.30 to 3.35
6 lbs. "Mexicans" ..	—
7 lbs.	3.35 to 3.85
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) ..	3.25 to 4.15
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ } to 14 lbs. }	4.50 to 5.20

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to } 6 lbs. piece }	\$1.85 to \$4.25
Brocades—Dyed .. yard	0.11 to 14.75
Chinese—Assorted ..	0.09 to 0.25
Velvets—Black, 22 in., ..	0.27½ to 0.55
Velveteens—18 in., ..	0.50 to 0.27
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk doz.	0.50 to 2.00

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops .. yard	\$0.70 to \$2.00
German, ..	0.50 to 0.65
Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths, ..	0.95 to 2.00
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. piece	8.25 to 9.50
Assorted ..	7.35 to 9.60
Camlets—Assorted ..	12.60 to 30.00
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches } Assorted .. }	13.50 to 21.00
Orleans—Plain ..	9.50 to 11.00
Blankets—8 to 12 .. Nbs.	0.60 to 1.40

RAW COTTON—

Bombay .. picul	\$23.00 to \$24.00
Bengal (New), Rangoon and Dacca ..	23.00 to 24.50
Shanghai and Japanese ..	26.00 to 27.00
Tungchow and Ningpo ..	26.20 to 28.00

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod .. picul	\$ 4.15
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.) ..	4.10
Swedish Bar ..	4.20
Small Round Rod ..	4.60
Hoop, 1 to 1½ in.	5.60
Wire, 16/25 oz., ..	9.20
Old Wire Rope ..	3.00
Lead—L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ..	—
Australian ..	9.25 to 9.25
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 28 oz.	38.50
Vivian's, 16/32 oz., ..	38.50
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	38.50
Tin, ..	85.00
Tin-Plates, .. box	8.50
Steel .. cwt. case	—

MISCELLANEOUS—

Quicksilver, .. picul	170.00
Window Glass, .. box	4.60
Kerosene Oil, .. case	—
Saltpetre, No. 1 .. picul	\$11.00 to 11.70
Do. No. 2 ..	10.60 to 10.80
Do. No. 3 ..	9.50 to 9.80

WHEATEN FLOUR—

Dayton, per bag of 50 lbs. gross	\$2.30
Choice ..	2.28
White Lily ..	2.28
Morjon ..	2.28
Norring Glory ..	2.30
White Fawn ..	2.28
Cow ..	2.28
Krone ..	2.45
Ghesa ..	2.28
Stove ..	2.28
Sperry's XXX ..	3.02
Pioneer ..	2.58
Anchor ..	2.28
Charm ..	2.28
Junk ..	2.28
Dog ..	2.28
Cash ..	2.28
Duck Lily ..	2.28
Starr ..	2.52
Peerless ..	2.22
Kilin ..	2.17
Blue Ribbon ..	2.30
Reardon ..	2.29
White Rose ..	2.30
Serene Sky ..	2.21
Gluten ..	2.24
Lobston ..	2.24
Fairy Peach ..	2.23
The Boss ..	2.23
Mowtan Peony ..	2.23
Thrush ..	3.17
Three Sheep ..	2.19
High Tuft ..	2.19
Cat ..	2.55

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 10th October.

Hongkong markets:—

Apricot ..	\$22
Borax ..	\$15 to 26
Cassia ..	\$20½
Cloves ..	\$30
Camphor ..	\$95
Cow Bazaar ..	\$675
Fennel Seed ..	\$8½

Galangal ..	\$24 to 5
Grapes ..	\$16
Kismis ..	\$16 to 22
Glue ..	\$26
Olibanum ..	\$2 to 18
Oil Sandalwood ..	\$235 to 325
" Rosa ..	\$50 to 250
" Cassia ..	\$260
Raisins ..	\$8
Senna Leaves ..	\$7 to 9
Sandalwood ..	\$32
Saltpetre ..	\$11½ to 12

EXPORTS:—

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 17th October:—There is no change to report in the position of the market, \$85.00 to \$86.00.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HONGKONG, October 7th.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected ..	Tls. 33.85
Do. seconds ..	30.50
Buffalo hides, best selected ..	22.50
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour, ..	—
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each ..	—
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi ..	11.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu ..	10.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen ..	—
Jute ..	8.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow ..	11.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng ..	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu ..	—
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu ..	12.50
Animal Tallow ..	12.05
Gallnuts, usual shape ..	15.75
Gallnuts, plum do.	18.00
Tobacco, Tingchow ..	—
Tobacco, Woukong ..	—
Black Bristles, Riflings ..	—
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck ..	—
Turmeric ..	—
Sesamum Seed ..	5.55
Sesamum Seed Oil ..	—
Wood Oil ..	8.80
Tea Oil ..	—

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. in their Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 7th October, report as follows:—Gallnuts.—Market firm.—A fair business. Cawhide.—Small quantities of summerhides are coming to our market.—The home market are open for business at good prices. Tobacco.—Crop reports continue bad.—Quality very unsatisfactory. Feathers.—Market has strengthened.—A good demand.—Supplies limited. Cotton.—Owing to the continued rainy weather cotton rules firm.—Some buying by local mills.—The failure of several important native cotton hongs also tends to impede business. Tallow.—A very good trade is being done at slightly lower prices. Wood Oil.—Fair business at slightly reduced figures. Strawbraid.—Market quiet. Sesamumseed.—Good orders for yellow seed are sent from home, although at gradually declining prices.—The Chinese are slowly meeting the decline. Goatskin Bags.—Home markets are improving.—Supplies small. Wool.—Sheep.—The American market has improved.—Inquiries for Szechuen Wool are in the market, but the ideas of buyers and sellers are too far apart as yet to allow of business. Antimony.—Market very firm.—Europe would be an eager buyer at about 5 per cent.—10 per cent. reduction.—Holdings of Chinese are moderate and they are in consequence unwilling to meet exporters.

Per P. & O. str. *Devanha*, sailed on 3rd Oct. For Manchester:—338 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar:—1 case silk piece goods, 1 case silk. For St. Etienne:—30 bales raw silk. For Valencia:—10 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—175 bales raw silk. For London:—277 bales waste silk, 402 bales pierced cocoons, 65 bales raw silk, 40 cases bristles, 60 bales feathers, 49 half-chests tea, 20 cases gum elemi, 16 packages personal effects. For Marseilles:—1 case feather, 60 bales raw silk.

Per M. M. steamer *Ville de la Ciotat*, sailed on 13th October: For Marseilles:—50 balles soie, 3 caisses soieries, 100 balles dechets de soie, 12 caisses plumes, 12 caisses Ilang Ilang, 75 caisses The. For Lyon:—210 balles soie, 3 balles dechets de soie. For Marseilles:—5 caisses cheveux. For Valence:—25 colis The. For Barcelone:—1 caisse soieries. For St. Chamond:—5 balles soie. For Etienne:—10 balles soie. For Havre:—44 caisses porcelaine. For Tamar:—10 caisses provisions. For Londres:—30 balles soie.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 16th October, 1908.—Our market has ruled much quieter during the past week, and beyond a further advance in Banks there are but few material alterations in quotations to report. Barsilver has continued fairly steady during the interval, closing at 23½, with T.T. on London at 1/9½, and on Shanghai at 75½.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been booked at \$795 and \$807, closing steady at the latter rate. London is unchanged at £80. Nationals are unchanged and without business at \$51 buyers.

MARINE INSURANCES.—A fair business has been done in Unions at rates varying between \$785 and \$795, the market closing rather easier with probable sellers at \$790. North China can be placed at the improved rate of Tls. 85, and Yangtzes at \$160. Cantons are quiet but steady at \$201 with no transactions reported.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have been booked at \$335 at which rate the market closes firm. Chinas have improved to \$96 with sales and further buyers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have again been booked at \$29, and more shares are procurable. In other stocks in this section no business is reported, and with the exception of Shell Transports which are wanted at 4½, there is no change in quotations to report.

REFINERIES.—China continue on offer at \$120 and Luzons at \$22.

MINING.—Raubs have been booked at \$7 at which rate more shares are on offer. Charbonnages are still in demand at \$580.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong & Whampoa Docks have been fixed at the reduced rate of \$93, and there are further sellers at this figure. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been booked at \$50 and close in further request at \$49. Shanghai Docks have declined in the north to Tls. 82, but there is a slight improvement to report in Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves which are now quoted at Tls. 154 with sales. Chinese Engineerings are easier with sellers at Tls. 16.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Quotations in this section are unchanged, and with the exception of a sale of West Point's at \$46 we have heard of no business during the interval.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkongs have continued quiet, and are still procurable at \$104. In the North, Internationals have advanced to Tls. 64, and Laou Kung Mows to Tls. 75.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Bell's Asbestos continue in request at \$8, and China Providents at \$94 after sales at the rate. Dairy Farms have further advanced to \$24 and a slightly higher rate might even be paid. Cements have again been done at \$10, and Electrics at \$18½. There are sellers of China Light and Powers at \$6½, China Borneos at \$10 and Union Waterboats at \$10½. Watsons are wanted at \$9½.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$800
National B. of China	28	London £50
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$51, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$8, buyers
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 }	\$10, sellers
China Provident	{ \$1 }	\$6½, sellers
	\$10	\$9½, sales & buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 64
Hongkong	\$10	\$10½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 6½
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 240
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$24, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$49, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$93, sales
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$9½, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 82, in S'hai
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 154, in S'hai
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$12, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$10, sales
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$185, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$18½, sales
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$77, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$235
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$25, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$200
China Fire	\$20	\$95, sales & buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$86½
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335
North China	25	Tls. 83, buyers
Union	\$100	\$790
Yangtze	\$60	\$160, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$94
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$9, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$27, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 114
West Point Building	\$50	\$46, sales & sel.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$580, buyers
Raubs	18, 10	\$7, sellers
	\$10	\$14
Peak Tramways	{ \$1 }	\$2
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$120, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$22, sellers
Robinson Piano Co.	\$50	\$59
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$34, sellers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$29, sales & sel.
Indo-China S. N. Co.	25	\$27½
		\$17½
Shell Transport Co.	21	4½/-
Star Ferry	\$10	\$24½
Do. New	\$5	\$15, buyers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$24, buyers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$5½
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$9, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$7	\$5, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$3, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9½, buyers
Wiesmann Ltd.	\$100	\$150
United Asbestos	\$4	\$12½
Do. Founders	\$10	230
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10½, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

EXCHANGE.

Hongkong, October 16th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Credits at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	222
Credits 4 months' sight	226½

ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	180½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	43
Credits, 60 days' sight	44½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	183
Bank, on demand	183½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	183
Bank on demand	183½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	75½
Private, 30 days' sight	76½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	86½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	86½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	76
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	106½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	12½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	12 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	87
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.15
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$58.60
BAR SILVER, per oz.	23½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent. discount.
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$5.57
"	10 " "	6.25
Hongkong	20 " "	4.90
"	10 " "	5.10

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG 16th October.—There is fair demand for tonnage in the North, but little doing down South. Saigon to Hongkong:—The rate remains at 4 cents per picul, owing to scarcity of cargo offering. The price of rice here has advanced over 20 cents per picul, owing to reports that recent floods and typhoons have done considerable damage to the new crop in Kwongtung. It is estimated that over one quarter of same has been destroyed. Saigon to Philippines:—19 cents has been paid for 28,000 and 18 cents per picul for 35,000 piculs. Saigon to North Coast Java:—Prompt steamers are procurable at 19 cents to 20 cents per picul. Saigon to Singapore:—Several fixtures done on a lump sum basis of 13 cents per picul. Iloilo to Hongkong: 15 cents per picul last. Newchwang to Canton:—The recent charters have been effected at 20 cents to 21 cents per picul, but owners are now holding for higher rates; to Amoy, 21 cents last. Coal freights continue steady.—From South Japan Coal Ports to Hongkong, \$1.20 to \$1.25 per ton according to size; to Canton, \$2.10 offering; to Hongay, \$1.30 last. From Cebu Laut to Hongkong, \$2.15. Bangkok, \$2.25 per ton. From Hongay to this, \$1.30 per ton. The following are the settlements:—*Myrtledene*—British steamer, 1,620 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongay, \$1.30 per ton. *Kutsang*—British steamer, 3,110 tons, Moji to Hongkong, (2,000) \$1.25 per ton. *Amara*—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Wakamatsu to Canton, \$2.00 per ton. *Myrtledene*—British steamer, 1,620 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton. *Standard*—Norwegian steamer, 894 tons, Phuyen Bay to Manila, \$5,000 lump sum. *Fume*—German steamer, 838 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul. *Skrandad*—Norwegian steamer, 860 tons, Saigon to Manila, 19 cents per picul. *Jaob Diederichsen*—German steamer, 712 tons, Newchwang to Amoy, 21 cents per picul. *Fooking*—British steamer, 1,433 tons, Newchwang and Chefoo to Canton, (26,000) 20 cents per picul. *Clara Jensen*—German steamer, 1,108 tons, Newchwang, Tairen, and Chefoo to Canton, (24,000) 20/21 cents per picul. *M. S. Dollar*—British steamer, 2,574 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.20 per ton. *Standard*—Norwegian steamer, 894 tons, Vunhang Bay to Manila (Cattle), \$5,000 lump sum. *Spir*—Norwegian steamer, 870 tons, Saigon to Singapore, \$3,500 S.C. lump sum. *Fri*—Norwegian steamer, 869 tons, Saigon to Singapore \$2,750 S.C. lump sum. *Sesto*—German steamer, 693 tons, Saigon to 1 port Philippines, (35,000), 15 cents per picul.

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